

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Of course, anything I may say will not commit the Government, because I am not in its confidence. I can express nothing but my own view. I agree with my honourable friend from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) that our present protection is absolutely inadequate.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Some fifteen years or so ago, when my honourable friend and I had a gentlemanly argument, I felt we did not need any naval reserve nor boats. I believed at that time that there would be no further necessity to provide against a war. But to-day I agree with my honourable friend that we should do something. I repeat that our present protection is absolutely inadequate. I am told that our two cruisers are very fine ships, as are our four mine sweepers. But just think of four mine sweepers for 7,000 miles of coast on the Atlantic and 3,000 miles on the Pacific! I am not criticizing the Government. I am simply saying that the thing is ridiculous. We must go further and do something in order to convince the Government that it should provide more protection. After all, the Government is only the executive.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: What do you recommend?

Hon. Mr. DUFF: I should not like to recommend anything.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: What do you suggest, then?

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Nor should I like to suggest anything. But I do say to my honourable friend that we should go just as far as it is possible for us to go. It is useless to stop with four destroyers—two on each coast. If we provide no more protection than that, we have to depend on the Monroe Doctrine. I do not want Canada to do that; I want it to be independent. I want it to be able to say to the United States, "While we are very friendly with you, we will bear our own burdens to the best of our ability."

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: What about the Naval College? Do you agree that should be reopened?

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Well, my honourable friend will admit that from the time we were boys, he and I, we never wore a white collar until we got into the Senate. While I am in favour of training schools, both on the Pacific and the Atlantic, I am rather afraid of a naval college. I think we should have a training ship on the Atlantic and one on the Pacific, and that some further training should

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also be provided on cruisers. In addition there should be a training depot on shore for the teaching of things that cannot be taught at sea. I am willing to go as far as the people of this country want us to go. I have entirely changed my view with regard to what we should do in the matter of naval defence, because conditions are different from what they were. It would be presumption on my part to suggest anything to the Government, but if the Government should wish to consult my honourable friend from Alma and myself—and I do not know from whom they could get better advice—I certainly should be willing to express my opinion.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: What do you say with regard to Lord Jellicoe's suggestion?

Hon. Mr. DUFF: That was made some years ago.

Hon. Mr. PARENT: Why does the honourable gentleman from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) not ask for endorsement of 14-inch or 16-inch guns?

Hon. Mr. DUFF: My friend and I are just having a friendly discussion. I am willing to go as far as possible in doing anything I can. If my advice is worth anything the Government is welcome to it, and can have it without a cent of cost. It would not be fair for me to suggest here, though, that the Government should buy a certain number of ships. I do say that by doing what the people want to have done, and by building up the fishing industry as I suggested a few moments ago, the Canadian nation within a few years, and probably before war strikes again—if it ever does—would be able to hold up its head, independent of the Monroe doctrine and all other outside help.

Hon. J. P. B. CASGRAIN: Honourable senators, I do not want to take any long part in this discussion. The honourable senator from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) says that while the Naval College at Halifax is closed it is necessary to send naval cadets to training colleges in England. I am sorry to disagree with him on that point. I have agreed with some things he has done. For instance, I agree with his Canadian navy. There were few in our party who did, and I was one of them.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I know that.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: A friend in need.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: The honourable senator from Lunenburg (Hon. Mr. Duff) has given us a great deal of information. I do not think I have heard a better speech in the Senate for many years than the one he has