

ada in the general elections which immediately followed. In 1885 it was justified by Sir John Macdonald amending the legislation proposed. In 1908 it was justified by Sir Wilfrid Laurier withdrawing the measure opposed, and to-day the Prime Minister has two courses open to him; he can drop the Bill or he can appeal to the people. The better course would be to drop the Bill. We are not asking for power, we are not fighting merely for a chance to go before the electorate of Canada; we are fighting upon what we consider to be a vital principle, fighting for the autonomy of Canada. We are fighting to keep here in Canada \$35,000,000 which the Prime Minister wishes to send to the mother country. That is all we are fighting for and we will be just as well pleased if we attain that end by the Prime Minister dropping the Bill as we would be if we attained that end by going to the country and receiving a favourable verdict from the people of Canada. His proper course would be to drop the Bill. I say that advisedly, I say that because, as I have already had occasion to remark in this House, he has not a majority of the people of Canada behind him when he presents this Bill. When he brought in this Naval Aid Bill he did not do it as the representative of the majority of the people of Canada.

An hon. MEMBER: Certainly he did.

Mr. BOIVIN: I was told that once before, 'certainly he did'—and I told the hon. gentleman who used that expression that the next time I spoke about that matter in the House of Commons I would demonstrate to him, figures in hand, that the Prime Minister had not a majority of the people of Canada behind him, and I propose to do it now. Let us take the Parliamentary Guide published by Major Ernest Chambers, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. In the edition of 1912, at page 276, you will find that the popular vote in the general election of 1911, counting the vote polled for Mr. Maclean in the Conservative column and that for Mr. Verville in the Liberal column was as follows:

Popular vote:	
Conservative..	669,557
Liberal..	625,096
Majority	44,461

But you will agree with me that the names represented in the columns which total up to that Conservative majority of 44,461 include a great number of members and candidates who sought election pledged to oppose the Naval Aid Bill or the Laurier Naval Service Act, pledged to oppose any aid to Great Britain without first submitting the question to the people by plebiscite.

Let us first take the list of those hon. gentlemen who though counted as Conserva-

tives, felt obliged in order to be re-elected to vote against the Naval Aid Bill both in the resolution and second reading stage. They received the following number of votes:

Achim, Labelle..	2,902
Barrette, Berthier..	1,638
Bellemare, Maskinongé..	1,507
Boulay, Rimouski..	4,179
Guilbault, Joliette	2,239
Lamarche, Nicolet..	2,805
Mondou, Yamaska..	1,870

Total.. 17,140

Let us now take the names of those hon. members who were elected, pledged against all naval aid to Great Britain, at least without a plebiscite upon the question. The votes received by them were as follows:

Blondin, Champlain..	3,811
Coderre, Hochelaga..	7,178
Forget, Charlevoix..	2,020
Forget, Montmorency..	1,359
Gauthier, Gaspé..	2,470
Girard, Chicoutimi..	3,798
Lavallée, Bellechasse	1,742
Lespérance, Montmagny..	1,653
Nantel, Terrebonne..	2,727
Paquet, L'Islet	1,578

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to understand how the hon. gentleman intends connecting this with the resolution before the House.

Mr. BOIVIN: The way I intend to connect this with the resolution before the House is that I consider hon. members on the Opposition side should be allowed the right and privilege of answering speeches made by hon. members on the Government side. The right hon. the Prime Minister, in introducing the resolution, said that he was introducing this resolution owing to the obstruction which was at the present time going on in the House against the Naval Aid Bill. My idea is to prove, what I advanced a few moments ago, that the Prime Minister was not justified in calling this obstruction and that, if it were obstruction, it was obstruction which was justified as much as the obstruction was in 1911, and even more so. He also said that the majority should rule. The majority should rule, as I understand it, by the popular vote of the people. That is what I wish to prove and I am almost through with my citation.

Mr. SPEAKER: If that is the hon. member's aim, as he says, of course, I recognize that he is not out of order.

Mr. BOIVIN: I wish to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your ruling in this matter. I certainly do not wish to transgress the rules of the House, and I was about to ask the indulgence of the House if I was infringing the rules. I continue the reading of the list of those who pledged against all naval aid to Great Britain without a plebiscite upon the question: