

stead. The object of the Bill to be submitted to parliament will be to preserve any forests there may be in the territory under government control. We have retained the control of the lands in Saskatchewan and Alberta. It will be the policy of the government to encourage the planting of groves of timber at various places. I think it would be a very good idea myself to give some sort of advantage to the homesteader who would surround his dwelling with trees or, at all events, plant a wind break on some part of his farm and in that way adopt individually—which probably would be the better way to carry it out on an extended scale—the principle of reforestation. It would enable the people of Alberta and Saskatchewan to grow fruit. I have inquired of gentlemen familiar with that country whether apples would not grow there. I am told that the Duchess of Oldenburg, which grows so well in this district, and apples which grow in Russia, have been cultivated successfully in the Northwest, and it would be a very great blessing to those provinces if the settlers there could grow their own fruit even though it were limited to apples. They certainly could grow apples, plums, cherries and other fruit, and it could be done more successfully if windbreaks were planted by the farmers in the way I have suggested.

My hon. friend made a good deal of comment on the clause which refers to our garrisoning Halifax and Esquimalt. In many of his observations I entirely concur with him. There was and is a good deal of sentiment in this question of imperialism, and no doubt the presence of British regiments in Canada had a good effect in that direction. There was always a very great pleasure taken—I know in my earlier years it was so—in witnessing the evolutions of the imperial troops. In my day we had a large force in Canada, and there is no doubt it had an influence in moulding the opinions of the people; but the policy of the imperial government has been to withdraw the troops, and it has been thought proper to withdraw the navy from the waters of the North Atlantic. A different principle prevails now from what existed nearly one hundred years ago. Up to within the last year it was thought important to have stations in Canada on the

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Atlantic and on the Pacific. The stations at Bermuda, Halifax and Esquimalt were thought to be of very great importance. They were centres from which operations by the navy were easily operated in any direction that became necessary. If hon. gentlemen have noted the observations of Mr. Haldane, the new War Minister, they will see that he is carrying the concentration principle to a degree that rather surprises some of us—that is, he is even proposing to reduce the fortifications around the coast of Great Britain itself, relying entirely on the naval arm and not adding to the army but rather strengthening the navy and reducing the expense of the army. My hon. friend thought that instead of our garrisoning Halifax and Esquimalt with detachments of the permanent force, it would have been better to give a money contribution towards the maintenance of the imperial forces. I do not agree with him, and had we proposed such a policy we would have been met with a storm of opposition. Our contribution would have amounted, perhaps, to one half of one per cent of the cost, which would be no perceptible advantage to the British tax-payer. The amount voted for the army and navy is very large, about \$350,000,000, and our contribution would be so insignificant that it would make really no impression. Whereas now we are doing something substantial, and it is an advantage no doubt to our permanent force. We must keep up, to some extent, a permanent force in Canada simply as a nucleus in order that the militia may from time to time be better disciplined by the example set before them. Therefore, it seems to be the only sensible way of meeting this demand that Canada should do something to aid in the defence of the empire. No one will deny the fact that if Canada did not exist to-day the British navy would not be one ship the less. The navy has been removed from our waters. We in Canada do not recognize that war on this continent is possible. It will soon be one hundred years since arms were taken up in earnest between the two countries on this continent, and one cannot be accused of prophesying without any foundation or justification in predicting that another hundred years must go around before a shot will be fired in anger between our-