

Section 22. The Governor in Council may place the naval forces or any part thereof on active service at any time when it appears advisable so to do by reason of an emergency.

Section 23. In case of an emergency the Governor in Council may place at the disposal of His Majesty for general service in the Royal navy, the naval service or any part thereof, any ships or vessels of the naval service, and the officers and seamen serving in such ships or vessels or any officers or seamen belonging to the naval service.

Up to that point the Naval Service Act provides exactly what the Naval Aid Act provides for: that the Governor in Council may place these ships at the disposal of His Majesty, but section 24 of the Naval Service Act says further:

24. Whenever the Governor in Council places the naval service or any part thereof on active service as provided in the two preceding sections, if Parliament is then separated by such adjournment or prorogation as will not expire within ten days, a proclamation shall be issued for the meeting of Parliament within fifteen days, and Parliament shall accordingly meet and sit upon the day appointed by such proclamation and shall continue to sit in like manner as if it stood adjourned or prorogued to the same day.

I have already said that there is more in this question than the mere voting of money in aid of the naval service of the Empire. My right hon. friend the leader of the Government gave us last night a fairly good reason, so far as he is concerned, as to why he has introduced this Bill. I have stated on different occasions, and I defy contradiction, that everything that can be done under the Naval Aid Act can be done under the Naval Service Act, with the approval of Parliament, and you can do nothing under the Naval Aid Act until you have the approval of Parliament to the passing of the Act. If it were passed to-morrow you could do no more under the Naval Aid Act than you can do under the Naval Service Act, and I have inquired from the Prime Minister and hon. gentlemen opposite why it is, in view of the fact that you can do everything under the Naval Service Act that you can do under the Naval Aid Act, they are not proceeding under the Naval Service Act. If the Government did proceed under the Naval Service Act we would not have had this four months' discussion; we would have been together. The Prime Minister said last night ('Hansard' page 9550):

So, on the present occasion, in view of circumstances which have been disclosed to this House, and which I shall not weary the House by repeating, the Government thought that two things were desirable; in the first place, that there should be an assurance given to the people of this Empire, and to all the nations of the world that, under conditions as they exist at present, Canada proposed to give such aid to the naval defence of the

Mr. GERMAN.

Empire as would assure the safety of that Empire for some years to come—

Does the right hon. gentleman think that by giving \$35,000,000 to Great Britain he would more securely safeguard the interests of the Empire than by anything the British could do themselves? It was rather a cheap proposition to make—if I might use that expression.

—and as would convince the nations of the world that the dominions were one with the Mother Country for the purpose of securing her safety.

I will give my right hon. friend full credit for desiring to safeguard the interests of the British Empire, as we on this side of the House are also desirous of doing. Knowing full well as he does that he could have asked Parliament under the Naval Service Act for an appropriation to build battleships to safeguard the interests of the British Empire, would he not have accomplished his purpose with equal effectiveness, with much more satisfaction to the British Empire and with much more credit to the Canadian people, if he had asked Parliament under this Act for an appropriation of ten or fifteen million dollars towards the building of battleships? If he had said: Mr. Speaker, in view of the exigencies of the situation, in view of the fact that the British Admiralty have said that in the interest of the Naval Service of Great Britain it is better for Canada at the present moment to build dreadnoughts than to build cruisers, we propose under the Naval Service Act to do so, he could have asked for his appropriation and gentlemen on both sides of the House would have stood up as one man and waved the flag and said: Take the money and build the ships. I for one would have supported the appropriation irrespective of what any other hon. member might say, and I believe that every member on this side of the House would have supported it. What did the right hon. gentleman do? He went over to England. I appreciate what happened over there. I have been in the Old Country and any Canadian who goes over there—why, you are carried off your feet with all the entertainments they give you. The right hon. gentleman was over there and I can imagine what they were doing with him. If my suggestion of a few weeks ago could have been carried out by the giving of this \$35,000,000, he would have been made Duke of Halifax. I do not know but that I would have felt like giving it, because I would like to see a duke in Canada. They filled him up with the idea that it would be a magnificent spectacular performance for Canada to vote \$35,000,000, to hand it over to the Government and to let them do with it what they liked, in aid of the naval defence of the Empire. He came back to Canada