

want a mandate. There was no mandate for sending volunteers to South Africa. It was confirmed later, but there was no mandate in advance. Necessity, as I said before, has no law. There is no mandate; there is no emergency; or if there is an emergency we can do without the Bill. Let us wait, and let the people of Canada say whether they believe in a permanent navy or in a contribution.

Hon. GENTLEMEN: Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex). If they want this contribution they shall have it, so far as I am concerned, should I have a seat in the Senate.

Hon. GENTLEMEN: Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex). There is nothing to stop the chariot wheels of the sovereign people. This Senate will not stop them so far as I am concerned. They must go on from stage to stage, and parliaments must give way for them, and houses of lords must give way for the people, and kings must lay down their heads upon the block that the sovereignty of the people might be supreme. What should we do? Find out what that is, and obey that mandate. If the twentieth century is to see the full fruition of the labour of those who laid the foundation of our Dominion and planned the superstructure which should be the glory of the nations, every measure which affects its dignity or which represents its purpose should be proportioned to the ideals of its founders. I have a great respect for the fathers of Confederation; we do not think enough about them. We are no longer infants in the night crying for the light. The day of things is past and gone. We are no longer walking timorously the path of destiny; our pulse beats stronger and our step is firmer, for the strength of young manhood is in our loins.

Hon. GENTLEMEN: Hear, hear.

Duty of Canada.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex). Not by shrinking from the responsibility of man's estate, not by listening to the feeble voice of mediocrity, not by cloudbursts of patriotic emotion will Canada be admitted into the family of nations. It is for the statesmen of today to set the pace for the next generation as well as for the present and to give the national character an impulse which will fire it with a new born enthusiasm for higher national ideals. Is there anything, I ask, in this Bill to produce that effect? Shall our children of twenty years hence read the history of our naval defence and cover their faces when they discover that it was proposed in the Senate of Canada to place at the disposal of the British admiralty a certain number of modern ships, the best that science could device or money pay for, but not a single Canadian to man them? When we joined with the other dominions to fight for the empire in South Africa we did not send empty uniforms. Uniforms were sent, to be sure, but there were 5,847 courageous Canadians inside of them. It was not Nelson's ships that won the battle of Trafalgar. Nelson did not say, "England expects this day that every ship will do its duty." Nelson said, "England expects that every man will do his duty." This Bill calls for money, not men; for models of steel and iron; not for models of courage and daring; it appeals to no man's flesh and blood; it offers no Victoria crosses for lives rescued on the battlefield from the sabres of the enemy. Empty as an exploded cartridge, and soulless as its