

States. It must be remembered that a large majority of the people of the West Indies exercise in their daily life the greatest possible economy, and the annual sum expended by one family might not exceed \$50 a year. But the ninety million people of the republic to the south are living in comfort and luxury, expending large annual sums on such natural products as are produced in Canada in great abundance.

I will not say anything on the naval question, as my views upon it are well known. In addressing this House during the last session, I had the pleasure of telling my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, when I was informed that he intended going to England to consult the Admiralty in regard to a naval policy which would be in the interests of Canada and the Empire, that if he came back with a policy which would provide for a Canadian navy built in the shipyards of Canada, with the iron and steel produced in this country and manned by Canadian seamen, no matter what the size of his vessels might be, I would give him my hearty support. The people of Canada have had time to consider this matter, and their cogitations have, I am sure, resulted in a sympathetic attitude towards the hon. leader of the Opposition in his views regarding the Canadian naval programme. If there are Liberals who may have differed with the right hon. leader of the Liberal party in some respects, they are the first to give him their support upon the question of a Canadian navy, and are ready to assist him in the establishment of a policy which will give aid to Great Britain not only in times of emergency, but at any time such assistance may be deemed advisable by the Canadian Parliament.

In the debate yesterday the hon. member for Edmonton made reference to the Macdonald by-election held in Manitoba in the month of October last. I was speaking a few moments ago of the privileges granted by British institutions, and, as my friend the hon. gentleman from Peterborough said this evening, the liberty of speech is one of those great privileges that are so much appreciated by the people of this country.

In corroboration of what has been presented to the House by the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver), I shall ask leave to add a testimony which came into my possession as a matter of accident by the expression of the affections of a son toward his father. In corroboration of what has been stated of the position assumed by the provincial government of Manitoba in giving instructions to police and to court officials I would cite the experience of one of my own children who

gives me the information simply to express to me his surprise at what he had heard of doings in connection with provincial elections in Manitoba, but could not believe before, was confirmed by his own experience when he was almost subjected to imprisonment or arrest for walking very quietly in the streets of Winnipeg a few days previous to that election. I have a son in the province of Manitoba, a very young man, the youngest of my children, who has scarcely seen five and twenty summers, a student at law in the province of Alberta, who had just left Laval after his course in philosophy a couple of years ago and went there to settle for life. He went into the constituency of Macdonald last October to help in the election and I wish to read to you what he writes me in reference to his experience in the Macdonald election. His letter is in French and I shall read the portion of it which I wish to lay before the House in French and then shall endeavour to translate it for the benefit of those members of this House who do not understand French.

J'ai fait connaissance de M. Bover, député de Vaudreuil. J'ai adressé, avec lui, une assemblée à Farnystelle, dans le comté de Macdonald, où j'ai eu l'occasion de constater la perversité de l'organisation conservatrice manitobaine. Quand je lisais dans les journaux les rapports d'arrestations faites sans cause et sans prétexte, je n'y croyais qu'à moitié, mais je n'étais pas plus tôt rendu dans le comté que j'avais moi-même un policier à mes talons. Naturellement, comme je ne faisais rien de mal ni d'illégal, je ne le craignais pas. Cependant la veille de l'élection j'ai été averti par ce monsieur policier, que si je ne cessais de parler aux gens en faveur de la réciprocité, je serais arrêté et emprisonné. Je lui ai demandé quelle était son accusation? Il me répondit: je n'en ai pas, mais j'ai mes instructions. Naturellement je lui ai dit que je ne pouvais suivre ses conseils que j'étais venu pour travailler et que je travaillerais. A ce moment il est arrivé quelques bons Français, et mon homme eut vite abandonné son idée de m'arrêter.

I shall now give you the exact translation of those few lines.

I made the acquaintance of Mr. Boyer, member for Vaudreuil, and addressed with him a meeting at Farnystelle, in the county of Macdonald, where I had occasion to realize the perversity of the Conservative organization in Manitoba. When I used to read in the papers all the reports of arrests made without cause and without evidence I only believed half of it. But I was scarcely in the county until I had myself a policeman at my heels. Naturally as I was doing nothing wrong and nothing illegal I did not fear him. Notwithstanding on the eve of the election I was notified by this gentleman of the police that if I did not cease to speak to the people in favour of reciprocity I would be arrested and imprisoned. I asked him what was his charge. He replied to me: I have none, but