

unit proposal in 1909. He did not even award the contracts for the four cruisers and six torpedo boats. Yet my Right Hon. friend knew every fact and figure we now know, according to his own assertion. You knew the increase in armaments in your time,—in which Germany grew to be the great naval power she is to-day. And all these years you had full power and an over-flowing treasury. Is this a death-bed repentance? Or is it a platform to get in on? My Right Hon. friend will forgive the average man if he sees in this a device to stop indefinitely all help to the Imperial treasury for the defence of the Empire. There is no doubt at all that if my Right Hon. friend attempted to carry out his policy of two fleet units to be constructed, manned and equipped by Canada, many, many years would pass over his head and ours before one single item of aid could be given to Imperial defence. Was it for that purpose, to hinder any effective co-operation and, if possible, make a platform upon which he could overthrow the present Government? I do not want to be uncharitable, but this has all the earmarks of a rather clumsily constructed platform to meet the other fellow, and if possible, make it appear to the country to be something better than the other had offered. Was it an emergency—a political emergency policy? My Right hon. friend, I think, must take this as a not uncharitable deduction. It is when one is in power, and with full control, that he feels responsibility. But when a man is in the wide, roomy spaces of the Opposition, he can make platforms which he never intends to stand on, and he can formulate policies that he never expects to carry out.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: My hon. friend has had a rich experience in that.

Mr. FOSTER: I have not observed my Right Hon. friend from 1883 up to the present day without being cognizant of the rich fields of ready promises that he has tilled.

A Canadian navy first, and then 'all the ships will be built in Canada,' says my Right Hon. friend. What does that mean? Does it mean that the boy is to learn to swim