

second reading of Bill (No. 95), respecting the naval service of Canada, the proposed amendment of Mr. Borden thereto, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Monk.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou). Mr. Speaker; we are to-day resuming the debate upon one of the most important questions that the parliament of Canada has had to deal with in recent years. After forty years of national life, and after a century and a half of connection with the motherland, Canada is considering seriously what part she will play in the history of naval development. And, in deciding what Canada's position should be at this time we are naturally confronted with the problem as to whether we should do anything, or nothing. If we follow the policy of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) Canada would do nothing, Canada would stand absolutely with her hands tied, unwilling to go forward and powerless to recede. But that is not a position which a great country like ours should take. After forty years of ever widening commerce, forty years of ever increasing development, on the northern half of this continent we have reached a period in our history when we are compelled as a matter of self respect to assume those responsibilities which come to every young and growing nation. It would be just as impossible for Canada to refuse to take her position to-day in regard to naval defence, as it would be for any of our great cities to decline to provide a police force for the maintenance of peace and order within their borders. And, Sir, as we owe a duty to our country in relation to its internal affairs, so also do we owe a duty to the empire in this respect. We know that a few years ago Britain withdrew from the North Atlantic the squadron that had guarded her interests and protected her supremacy, and for four years past neither on the Atlantic nor on the Pacific coast is there to be found a naval squadron for our protection. The mother country left to Canada the duty of supplying that vacancy, and, Sir, that is the duty which we are assuming to-day when the government submitted this measure to parliament and asked parliament to adopt it.

I suppose it is hardly a matter which needs to be argued that Canada ought to do something, although the hon. gentleman from Grey (Mr. Sproule) rather intimated that it was not necessary that Canada should do anything at all. There may be throughout the Dominion some men who think that because we have had no trouble in the past, and because England has been a protecting mother through all the years of our natural career, it is neither necessary nor desirable that we should make

expenditure on a navy. That however, is an ignoble plea in the eyes of British freemen; it is entirely out of touch with the advancement and development which Canada has achieved. Recognizing our status among the empire's nations, our government has come to parliament with a proposal to make a beginning in the direction of naval development by providing for the erection of a Canadian naval college in which our young men can be trained in those arts which fit them to become naval officers, and for the construction of 11 ships of different types in Canada—in Canada—in which will be enlisted and trained young Canadians who will be able to go forth and fight, not only the battles of this Dominion, but the battles of the empire as well, if time of stress should require it. This, Mr. Speaker, is essentially a policy of Canada for the Canadians. There was a time in the olden days when our brethern opposite arrogated to themselves the claim of being the only political party that ever propounded anything that was good for Canada. Away back in 1878, when they formulated the national policy and put on a high tariff which they said was intended to make this nation develop industrially and in every other way, when some one suggested that possibly such a policy might interfere with our connection with Great Britain, these doughty so-called loyalists at once replied: So much the worse for British connection. And, Sir, when Canada in her march onward and upward, says that after forty years of industrial life, forty years of the greatest development that any colony or dependency has ever seen, she proposes to inaugurate a ship-building industry: does it lie in the mouths of these gentlemen who in 1878 declared: so much the worse for British connection, to now set up a hue and cry about loyalty. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the object of this government in proposing this policy is that this navy is to be constructed in Canada, by Canadian workmen, in Canadian workshops, and that it is to be a Canadian navy primarily for the defence of Canada's interests. We have had quotations from gentlemen opposite in regard to what went on at the different imperial conferences. My hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) who distorted and misrepresented almost every quotation he cited, forgot to tell the House what Lord Selborne said in 1902. Speaking at the conference of that year, discussing the various phases of the spirit which the colonies should display in their relations to Great Britain, he said—and I notice that my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Borden) quoted from this statement of Lord Selbourne, but failed

Mr. SPROULE