

Mr. PUGSLEY: What are the names of the boats?

Mr. HAZEN: They were not named when we bought them.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The reason I ask is because I see in the Naval Annual that only two submarines were being built for the Chilean Government last year, and these were being built at the Electric Torpedo Shipyards. I saw a newspaper statement that these two submarines were built at those yards, but my hon. friend is sure that they were built at Seattle?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: They may have been built in New York and taken to Seattle.

Mr. AMES: I was in Seattle the day they were purchased. The submarines were primarily assembled in New York, and the parts were afterwards sent to Seattle and put together there.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Then the statement in the Naval Annual is correct, that they were built at the Electric Torpedo Shipyards, which, I may say, are closely connected with the Fore River Shipyards, of which my hon. friend has heard. I am glad to tell my hon. friend that notwithstanding the alleged bankruptcy of that company they have recently turned out for the United States Government perhaps the largest battleship afloat. I am glad to observe that the Government has transferred these submarines to the British Admiralty. They are now under the control of the Royal Navy, are they not?

Mr. HAZEN: At the disposal of His Majesty.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I am very glad to see that that was done under the sections of the Naval Service Act. I would like to ask my hon. friend further with reference to the Order in Council dated August 4, which I will read:

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated August 4, 1914, from the Minister of the Naval Service, submitting that section 23, of the Naval Service Act, chapter 43 of the statutes of 1910 provides that:

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.

An emergency having arisen, the minister recommends that H.M.C.S. Niobe and [Mr. Hazen.]

H.M.C.S. Rainbow, together with the officers and seamen serving in such vessels, be placed at the disposal of His Majesty for general service in the Royal navy.

The committee concur in the foregoing recommendation and submit the same for approval.

Rodolphe Boudreau,  
Clerk of the Privy Council.

Has the Admiralty accepted the offer of these two ships for service in the Royal navy?

Mr. HAZEN: The Admiralty has accepted the offer made by Canada.

Mr. PUGSLEY: What is the result of that? Does the British Admiralty take charge and pay for the equipment and maintenance, or does Canada continue to maintain and man the ships and pay for the equipment and manning.

Mr. HAZEN: We are continuing to pay for the equipment and manning.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I observe from the newspapers that although the Niobe has been transferred to the Royal navy she is not yet fully in commission. What is the reason for the delay?

Mr. HAZEN: The Niobe is, of course, in a sense in commission, but she will not be ready to sail until the 1st of September. At the request of the British Government, the men on the Niobe were sent out to British Columbia to go on board the Rainbow for the purpose of cruising in the Behring sea; but when the war broke out that was changed and the Rainbow was put into service for the protection of British shipping on the Pacific coast. The Niobe is being manned with ex-naval service men in Canada, many of whom have already reported for service, and by the crews of the Algerine and Shearwater. These vessels are being laid up by the British Government at Esquimalt, and the crews are being sent across the continent to Halifax to help to man the Niobe. My information is that the Niobe will be ready to sail on the 1st September.

Mr. PUGSLEY: It was stated by the St. John Globe, which usually has authoritative despatches from Ottawa as to what the Government is doing, that considerable delay was occasioned by the cleaning out of the boilers of the Niobe, or the removal of the solid material which had been placed in the tubes to prevent them from rusting. I would like to ask my hon. friend if he has any information as to whether the guns were removed from the Niobe several months ago?