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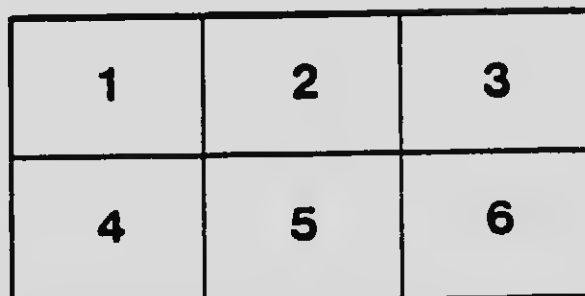
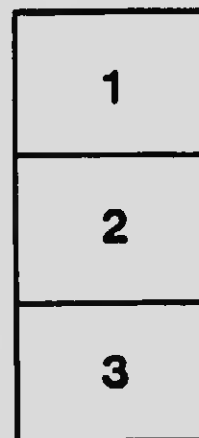
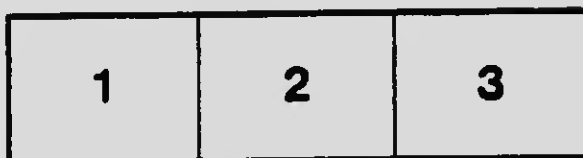
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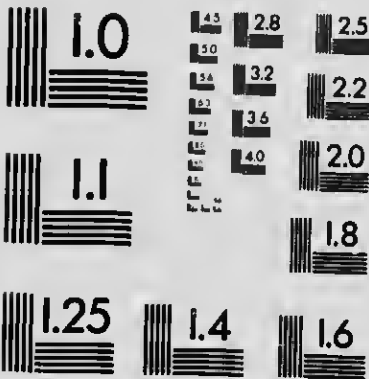
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LIBERALS

AND THE

NAVAL EMERGENCY

For the sake of a supposed party
advantage they gambled with
the future of the Empire

**Scuffed at the possibility
of War**

They shut their Ears to all Warnings, their
Eyes to all preparations, and their
hands against all giving.

*The following pages contain extracts from speeches
made by Liberal members on the floor of the
House of Commons, but which to-day*

THEY WISH THEY HAD NEVER UTTERED

FC555
L53
1915
C. 2
444



The Allies : "If only that British Government had been as slow as you, Sir Wilfrid, to see an emergency, our plans would have succeeded."

FC555
L53
1915
C.2
444



The Allies : "If only that British Government had been as slow as you, Sir Wilfrid, to see an emergency, our plans would have succeeded."

LIBERALS AND THE NAVAL EMERGENCY

The war between Great Britain and Germany has come.

It was this war for which Sir Robert Borden sought to prepare the Dominion in his proposal of a contribution of three Dreadnoughts to the Imperial Navy.

It was this war which the Liberals in the Canadian Parliament declared would never come. It was this emergency, the sure coming of this titanic struggle, whose existence the Liberals, under Laurier, denied. It was this war which Sir Wilfrid Laurier boldly assured the people of Canada would not take place, because the German Emperor was a man of character, of moral fibre,—a peacemaker.

For the sake of a supposed party advantage, the Liberals, under Laurier, gambled with the future of the Empire. They shut their ears to all warnings, their eyes to all preparations, and their hands against all giving. They rejected the memorandum of the British Admiralty, which disclosed the actual facts of the German menace. They talked of their autonomy, of Downing Street rule, and of the American revolt.

Here are the warnings uttered on three occasions by Premier Borden and unheeded by the Liberals:—

On the 29th of March, 1908, he said:—

“The day might come—I do not say that it will come—the day might come; it might come tomorrow, it might come next week, it might come next month, when the only thing we could do in the absence of preparation in this country would be to make some kind of contribution.”

On the 12th of January, 1910, he uttered, in the House of Commons, words that have since been borne out:—

"The speediest organization would not make our Canadian naval service effective in less than ten years. Probably 15 or 20 years would be required; and a crisis, if a crisis is to be apprehended, WILL COME WITHIN FIVE AND PROBABLY WITHIN THREE YEARS."

Speaking in the House on the 5th of December, 1912, he referred thus to the need for preparation:—

"This Empire will never undertake any war of aggression, and all the influences of Canada will assuredly be arrayed against any such course; but we know that war has come many times within the past fifty years without warning, LIKE A THUNDERBOLT FROM A CLEAR SKY, and thereby the power, the influence, and the destiny of more than one nation have been profoundly affected. A NAVAL WAR ESPECIALLY MAY COME WITH STARTLING SUDDENNESS, for these tremendous engines of war are always ready and prepared for battle."

"BUT TODAY, WHILE THE CLOUDS ARE HEAVY AND WE HEAR THE BOOMING OF THE DISTANT THUNDER, AND SEE THE LIGHTNING FLASHES ABOVE THE HORIZON, WE CANNOT AND WE WILL NOT WAIT AND DELIBERATE UNTIL ANY IMPENDING STORM SHALL HAVE BURST UPON US IN FURY AND WITH DISASTER. ALMOST UNAIDED, THE MOTHERLAND, NOT FOR HERSELF ALONE, BUT FOR US AS WELL, IS SUSTAINING THE BURDEN OF A VITAL IMPERIAL DUTY, AND CONFRONTING AN OVERMASTERING NECESSITY OF NATIONAL EXISTENCE. Bringing the best assistance that we may in the urgency of the moment, we come thus to her aid, in token of our determination to protect and ensure the safety and integrity of this Empire, and of our resolve to defend on sea, as well as on land, our flag, our honour and our heritage."

Here are some of the Liberal statements, made on the floor of the House of Commons, on which they based their refusal to aid the Empire:

SIR WILFRID LAURIER, December 12th, 1912:—

"This document (the Admiralty memorandum) shows that there is no emergency, that England is in no danger, whether imminent or prospective."

"When England is at war, we are at war, but it does not follow that because we are at war we are actually in the conflict."

DR. MICHAEL CLARK (Red Deer), December 12th, 1912:—

"The fact of the matter is that this German scare has become so attenuated a thing that it only finds a resting place in such comparatively disordered minds as we have had an example of this afternoon."

December 16th, 1913:—

"Just as in the middle of the last century, the French scare passed away without there having been the smell of gun-powder between the two great nations of France and Great Britain from that time, and as the Russian scare in the seventies passed away likewise without there having been a trigger pulled then or since; so, happily for humanity and civilization the German scare of yesterday is vanishing. I think I shall be able to offer proof from the best possible sources that a generation from now we shall be looking back upon this as another of the human follies and upon the historical fact that following it there was not the firing of a shot by the one or the other of these two great Christian nations."

"The evidence that there is no impending war between these two countries is carried to our very doors."

"There is no emergency."

MR. D. A. LAFORTUNE (Montcalm), December 13th, 1912:—

"They are anxious to have ships constructed for Mrs. England. I say no; I love England as I love the Crown under whose protection we live. But what is there to induce us to send our money to support the war'rgemen over in Europe, and particularly men in Great Britain?"

MR. J. H. SINCLAIR (Guysboro), December 17th, 1912:—

"I am opposed to the proposal of the Government, for the following among other reasons: Because there is no emergency to justify it."

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...ships constructed for Mrs. Eng-

MR. W. M. GERMAN (Welland), December 17th, 1912:—

“Is there a man living today who believes that there will be a war between Germany and England? . . . I do not believe it.”

MR. L. J. GAUTHIER (St. Hyacinthe), January 17th, 1913:—

“Not only does the memorandum not say that there is an emergency, but, on the contrary, the memorandum says **there is no emergency.**”

MR. E. B. DEVLIN (Wright), January 31st, 1913:—

“Two weeks afterwards the debate is resumed at a time when the waters of international politics are as calm as a mill-pond in summer—at a time when **England and Germany are working hand in hand** to re-establish the peace of Europe. My right honourable friend the Prime Minister is very much to be congratulated upon this state of affairs, because now that there is **absolutely no question of an emergency**, and cannot possibly be any question of an emergency, he can use that money in the development of this country.”

HON. H. S. BELAND (Beauce), January 31st, 1913:—

“The claim is made that \$35,000,000 are necessary to relieve a certain naval stress in Great Britain, to do away with an emergency. **I sincerely believe that the emergency is dead.**”

MR. LEVI THOMPSON (Qu'Appelle), February 4th, 1913:—

“I do not believe that the people of this country are convinced that **there is any real danger from Germany**, or that an attack from Germany is even the most probable attack on Great Britain. . . . I have had some experience with Germans individually, and I find that a German is a man upon whose word I can rely, on whose profession of friendship I can rely.”

MR. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou), February 6th, 1913:—

“It took three attempts to have a document prepared that would be satisfactory. The Prime Minister came back to Canada without it, and I have not the slightest doubt that portions of that document that were sent back here were submitted to the Admiralty by the Prime Minister himself before they were sent to Canada. They bear every earmark of it. **That is a nice kind of an emergency, is it not?**”

MR. D. D. MACKENZIE (Cape Breton), February 6th, 1913:—

"I submit that there is not the slightest emergency in any part of the Empire."

MR. W. M. MARTIN (Regina), February 7th, 1912:—

"I think that in view of what has been said by the statesmen of Great Britain, men who know the situation there well, it is useless for any person to rise in this House, or to come before the people of this country and try to stampede the people by telling us that there is an emergency, a crisis in the naval supremacy of the British Empire. I find every reason for coming to the conclusion that the memorandum does not say that there is an emergency."

MR. ROCH LANCTOT (Laprairie and Napierville), February 7th, 1912:—

"There is no emergency. . . . The Prime Minister calls on us to vote 35 millions to Great Britain without having any good reason to offer to justify such a demand. **No emergency, no semblance of emergency just now, and for several years to come.**"

MR. F. F. PARDEE (West Lambton), February 11th, 1913:—

"An emergency! I do not believe the stoutest-hearted of the Government supporters will stand up and say that in this year of grace 1913 that there is an emergency."

MR. ALPHONSE VERVILLE (Mais neuve), February 11th, 1913:—

"Sir, I contend that there is absolutely not a shade of reason for saying that any emergency exists today."

MR. W. F. CARROLL (South Cape Breton), February 11th, 1913:—

"Well, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that there is no emergency existing now, and even if an emergency did exist I hold that the policy announced by the Prime Minister is not adequate to provide against it. . . . **No real emergency exists, and judging by the outlook of European affairs at the present time it will be many and many a long year before England is confronted by any emergency.**"

HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Ronville), February 11th, 1913:—

"To our surprise this year the Government have submitted this policy of tribute, because, forsooth, they have discovered an emergency. Nobody in England dreams of an emergency. Nobody here thinks there is an emergency; yet the Government

choose to say that an emergency there is, or, rather, that there was one, because since Christmas the much dreaded emergency, like old furniture of the Jacobite period and old Sheffield plate, is relegated to the antiquarian shop."

MR. B. B. LAW (Yarmouth), February 13th, 1913:—

"I cannot bring myself to believe that any emergency exists at all."

MR. J. G. TURRIFF (Assiniboia), February 18th, 1913:—

"The only argument by which it (the Dreadnought proposal) can be backed up in any degree whatever is that based upon the assumption that there is an emergency at the present time. I doubt very much if my right hon. friend himself thinks there is an emergency. I doubt very much if any hon. gentleman on the other side of the House thinks there is an emergency."

MR. W. M. GERMAN (Welland), February 18th, 1913:—

"Sir, I say there is a greater emergency in settling this question by the people of Canada than there is in giving three Dreadnoughts that much sooner or later to the British Empire."

MR. F. B. CARVELL (Carleton, N.B.), February 18th, 1913:—

"I want now to take up the other side of the case for a few minutes, the reference to the question of emergency. . . . We know that the Lords of the Admiralty have no fear whatever as to the outcome of the naval question between Great Britain and Germany. On this side of the House we believe that no emergency exists. I think we have the facts and figures to prove it. . . ."

"In the face of such a condition of affairs as this, who can say there is an emergency, or that it is necessary that we should give \$35,000,000 to Britain, where it is not required? I have a lot of data before me, but I will not weary the House by putting them on 'Hansard,' although I could go on almost indefinitely piling up evidence against the statement that a condition of emergency exists in England today, and that we should enter into this unreasonable and I think almost unconstitutional expense—\$35,000,000 of our money. . . ."

"After exhausting every particle of information we have on the question today, there is no man who can logically reason his matter out and ask any jury to come to the conclusion that there is any reason for this preposterous legislation."

MR. J. J. HUGHES (Kings, P.E.I.), February 19th, 1914:

"It has been stated that an emergency has since arisen, and in order to meet that emergency we should send an immediate contribution to the Mother Country. We have not been

given any reason for considering that an emergency of that nature exists. We have been given reason, in fact, for believing that no such emergency exists."

MR. A. K. MACLEAN (Halifax), February 21st, 1913:—

"The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) asks this House to support the measure upon the ground that there is an emergency. He says that the memorandum is evidence of it, and he further says that it voices the sentiment and views of the leading public men of England. I deny and will endeavour to show before I conclude my remarks that there is not the shadow or shade of evidence of emergency in that document."

"Hon. gentlemen opposite, with few exceptions so far, have attempted the justification of this bill upon the theory of the imminence of war and impending danger to the prestige and permanence of the British Empire. I submit that the foundation upon which they propose to establish the events of this bill is absolutely wanting. I repeat, that they have not proved that there is an emergency. I submit that their alarm and fears are groundless and the reasons given for them unproven, and consequently the whole argument falls to the ground."

"Hon. gentlemen opposite seek to accomplish their purpose through artificial fear and alarm."

"There is no emergency or threatening danger to justify the settlement of the question of naval defence upon other than principle and permanent policy."

"Hon gentlemen opposite think that this memorandum gives them some evidence which justifies their claim that there is an emergency. I say emphatically and without fear of contradiction that you cannot find a word or a line in it which will justify the fear which the Prime Minister expressed when he asked us to look at the heavy clouds lying low and to listen to the booming thunder and to look at the vivid lightning flashes on the horizon."

MR. P. A. SEGUIN (L'Assomption), February 25th, 1913:

"If, then, I cast a glance beyond and above these sentimental considerations, I foresee the day when Canada, by the sheer force of circumstances, will take its place as a free nation under the sun, a place to which it is entitled. Please note that it is not here a matter of hastening or deferring that happening; to hasten it would be an act of disloyalty towards the Mother Country; to defer it would be an act of disloyalty to ourselves. The one is not any better than the other. But in the same way that the son without being a traitor, may long for the hour of liberty, so also may colonials long for the hour of full independence for their country. Time and circumstances are the decisive factors."

MR. E. LAPOINTE (Kamouraska), February 26th, 1913:

"The emergency reason falls to the ground after the statements made by the leaders of British politics. The reason for

The Scoffers To-day



The "Emergency" Sir Robert Borden warned them to help him prepare to meet.

emergency put forward by the Government is a dream which has become the laughing stock of the country. . . . We are called upon to disburse five dollars per head of population in the Dominion, and the electors of the County of Knmouraska, whose representative I am here, are unanimously opposed to such an absurd act of generosity."

HON. FRANK OLIVER (Edmonton), February 26th,
1913:--

"And they justify this very remarkable proposition on the ground that there exists an emergency in the condition of the British Empire. I need not repeat, Mr. Speaker, that so far as this debate has gone it has been demonstrated and re-demonstrated, it has been stated and re-iterated, and there has been no evidence brought to the contrary that no such condition exists as calls for such remarkable action on the part of the Government of Canada."

MR. WILLIAM CHISHOLM (Antigonish), February 26th,
1913:--

"They conjured up an emergency because of the alleged attitude and preparations for war of Germany, and said they would have to do something, and that was the most tangible way in which they could give evidence of their loyalty and their desire to assist the Mother Country."

SIR WILFRID LAURIER, February 27th, 1913:--

"I charge upon the Administration, Sir, that they have submitted this measure to us under false pretences; and I do not consider that observation too strong. I charge upon the Administration that they put into the mouth of His Royal Highness the Governor-General, assertions which were absolutely unfounded in fact, when they placed in the speech from the Throne the assertion that a condition of things exists in Great Britain which makes it imperative that the naval forces of the Empire should at once be strengthened. I say there is not the shadow of foundation for such an assertion."

"There is one fact in the situation which I think shows that there is no intention on the part of Germany to attack England, and that fact is the German Emperor. The German Emperor is undoubtedly one of the great men of the present age. By intellect, by character, by moral fibre, he has shown himself wonderfully endowed. In the first years of his reign some of his utterances sent a shiver through those who had the peace of the world at heart. Many believed that he was, perhaps, hankering for the glamour of military glory. But, as he advanced in years, and as crisis after crisis came his patient influence was always directed towards peace. And the day may come when, like his illustrious uncle, our late King, he may be called the peacemaker."

MR. D. D. McKENZIE (Cape Breton), March 3rd, 1913:—

“I think it is quite a proper and legitimate argument to point out that there is no emergency, no danger, no menace, no crisis.”

MR. W. M. GERMAN (Welland), March 4th, 1913:—

“The German scare is no reason. . . . There is not bottom enough in the scaretub to hold a pint of scare. Why, oven the tub itself is gone.”

DR. MICHAEL CLARK (Red Deer), March 4th, 1913:—

“I was very much struck with what fell from the lips of the honourable member for Welland about the death of the German scare. The time has come when we must have an admission from honourable gentlemen opposite that the scare is dead. These ships will be in the war without the Canadian Government or the Canadian Parliament having a word to say. That is my first charge against this policy and my first objection to this expenditure. The financial relationship of Great Britain and Canada do not call for this expenditure. The financial obligations of Canada and Great Britain are mutual, and it is perfectly easy to exaggerate any obligations that we have been under to the old country.”

“I suppose that the restrictions on our trade in the early days constitute another obligation we owe to the Mother Country.”

“From statements which have been read in this House it would appear that there is no possibility of war between Great Britain and Germany, yet it is the disposition of the German fleet which leads us to send three ships to the North Sea.”

“The way to get peace is to prepare for peace.”

“If you want to make another great free republic on this North American continent, go on with your contribution, continue with your scheme.”

MR. GUSTAVE BOYER (Vaudreuil), March 4th, 1913:—

“As evidence that there no longer exists any danger, we are aware that quite recently the British Government did not avail themselves of the offer of New Zealand to take charge of the protected cruiser which that country had ordered in Great Britain. Had there been an emergency, that dreadnought, instead of starting on a cruise around the world, would have been assigned to its place in the line of war ships in the North Sea.”

NOTE.—The New Zealand sailed for the North Sea with the rest of the British fleet at the outbreak of the war.

And the New Zealand was one of the ships which took part in the daring raid on the German fleet at Heligoland on August 27th last, when

five German cruisers and destroyers were sunk, and not a British ship was lost.

But there was no Canadian ship in line.

MR. J. G. TURRIFF (Assiniboia), March 4th, 1913:—

“Honourable gentlemen opposite do not claim that there is an emergency. They cannot; for there is not a fact that they can point to in order to make good such a claim.”

MR. J. A. ROBB (Huntingdon), March 4th, 1913:—

“The people will be beginning to ask, Where is the emergency? They will look for this emergency in England and in Germany in vain. While we are talking fight in one of the greatest of the British colonies, over in England and Germany they are discussing peace proposals and are getting together on a peace basis.”

MR. G. W. KYTE (Richmond), March 4th, 1913:—

“It has been stated that a rapprochement has been reached between Great Britain and Germany. The mad race to excel each other in naval armaments seems to have brought the ruling powers in both countries to their senses, and there is a disposition on their part to put an end to the competition which has caused so much disquiet in all the chancelleries of Europe during the past four or five years.

“Three Canadian warships will be in the firing line—the most effective that science can build or money can buy, as we have been told. They will be in the firing-line dealing out havoc to the nation with which Great Britain is at war. Is that not a more aggravated cause of attack on us than to have our ships carrying contraband of war? If Germany finds that Canada has gone out of her way to line up three dreadnoughts against her, Germany will necessarily make reprisals and Canada will find herself attacked without any means of defending herself because her ships will be in the North Sea.”

MR. GEORGE McCRAVEY (Saskatoon), March 4th, 1913:

“On looking over the memorandum of the Admiralty, one will find that the conditions outlined are serious and permanent, they are not extraordinary conditions; there is nothing of emergency about them.”

MR. JOHN H. SINCLAIR (Guysboro), March 4th, 1913:—

“It is the same old story in connection with the history of Great Britain, not only in our generation and in Canada, but throughout the whole of the British possessions. At the time of the revolt of the thirteen colonies the same question came up.”

MR. WILLIAM F. KAY (Missisquoi), March 4th, 1913:—

“The emergency was created by political alliances in this country, not by any danger or lack of preparedness in the navy of Great Britain.”

MR. O. TURGEON (Gloucester), March 4th, 1913:—

“Since the introduction of this measure, events have proved the justice of our refusing to admit that there was an emergency and to consent to the naval policy to be prepared by the Government which we felt to be unwise and imprudent.”

HON. H. S. BELAND (Beauce), March 4th, 1913:—

“No man in this House, no man in this country, or no man in Great Britain today thinks that there is an emergency.”

MR. LEVI THOMPSON (Qu'Appelle), March 5th, 1913:—

“We have heard a good deal about emergencies and need, and Germany has been represented to us as a nation which was liable to swoop down on Great Britain and destroy the British Empire. But we have not been shown what Germany would gain by destroying the British Empire. There has been no time since I was a boy that I have not heard of scares and dangers, but I do not remember a time when the British Empire was less in danger of attack than at the present time.”

“We have as much reason to fear attack from Japan as from Germany. The relations between Great Britain and Germany are of the most friendly character.”

MR. L. J. GAUTHIER (St. Hyacinthe), March 5th, 1913:

“I think we may say, without fear of contradiction, that the emergency is non-existent.”

“I oppose the policy of the Government because we are compelled by it to impute motives to a great world power that is so far as we know on good terms with Great Britain.”

MR. T. MacNUTT (Saltcoats), March 5th, 1913:—

“But in view of disclosures since made, I think there is grave doubt that an emergency exists, even if it appeared at that time.”

“There was no emergency then (1909), and there is none now.”

MR. JACQUES BUREAU (Three Rivers), March 5th, 1913:—

“An emergency would be the only excuse for giving a contribution. But it is an admitted fact that there is no emergency.”

MR. HUGH GUTHRIE (South Wellington), March 5th, 1913:—

"I do not think anyone will argue that there is a need, a necessity, or an emergency at the present time. I never did hold the idea that there was any emergency, and day after day and week after week I have come to the conclusion that it is an absolute absurdity to talk of an emergency or menace."

DR. MOLLOY (Provencher), March 6th, 1913:—

"While this is one reason why I desire to speak for a short time on this matter, I may say that I do not agree with the statements of hon. gentlemen opposite that an emergency exists in connection with the naval defence of the Empire."

MR. EDMOND PROULX (Prescott), March 6, 1913:—

"Any way that emergency question, no one takes any stock in it at present, and a knowledge of what is going on will do away with any fears in that respect. Relations between Great Britain and Germany—since reference must be made to the German menace—are greatly improved in comparison with what they were in former days. Emperor William himself has uttered reassuring words, stating that a war between Great Britain and Germany would constitute a world-wide disaster, which should be avoided, and the head of the German navy has also declared that Germany accepted the margin of 10 to 16 warships as between the German and British fleets."

"Should these relations be interfered with and should Germany become suspicious at the increase in the British naval forces owing to the addition of three battleships which this Government intends to offer, and should she in consequence further develop her armaments instead of helping Great Britain we should have done an injury to her."

MR. J. C. ETHIER (Two Mountains), March 6th, 1913:—

"It will suffice to read that document (the Admiralty memorandum) attentively through to satisfy oneself that there is neither emergency nor peril for Great Britain, and that clause 2 has no justification whatever. Even quite recently the British Admiralty did not accept the offer of a battleship which was made by New Zealand, and it will be seriously contended that there is an emergency. No, it is only a farce, a comedy which has lasted altogether too long, and which the electorate will no doubt appreciate and deal with in accordance with its merit on the first opportunity."

NOTE.—The New Zealand battleship was accepted and put to sea with the British fleet at the outbreak of the war.

And the New Zealand was one of the ships which took part in the daring raid on the German fleet at Heligoland on August 27th last, when

**The Message of the British Admiralty
to the People of Canada.**

(From the Official Memorandum.)

“The Prime Minister of the Dominion having inquired in what form any immediate aid that Canada might give would be most effective, **WE HAVE NO HESITATION IN ANSWERING, AFTER A PROLONGED CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT IT IS DESIRABLE THAT SUCH AID SHOULD INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THE LARGEST AND STRONGEST SHIPS OF WAR WHICH SCIENCE CAN BUILD OR MONEY SUPPLY.**”

“The Admiralty set the greatest store by the important material, and still more important moral, assistance which it is within the power of Canada to give to maintaining British naval supremacy on the high seas, but they think it necessary to **DISCLAIM ANY INTENTION, HOWEVER INDIRECT, OF PUTTING PRESSURE UPON CANADIAN PUBLIC OPINION, OR OF SEEKING TO INFLUENCE THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT IN A DECISION WHICH CLEARLY BELONGS SOLELY TO CANADA.**”

WHATEVER MAY BE THE DECISION OF CANADA AT THE PRESENT JUNCTURE, GREAT BRITAIN WILL NOT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES FAIL IN HER DUTY TO THE OVERSEAS DOMINIONS OF THE CROWN.”

**From Sir Robert Borden's Speech introducing the
Naval Aid Bill, December 5, 1912.**

"BUT TODAY, WHILE THE CLOUDS ARE HEAVY AND WE HEAR THE BOOMING OF THE DISTANT THUNDER, AND SEE THE LIGHTNING FLASHES ABOVE THE HORIZON, WE CANNOT AND WE WILL NOT WAIT AND DELIBERATE UNTIL ANY IMPENDING STORM SHALL HAVE BURST UPON US IN FURY AND WITH DISASTER. Almost unaided, the Motherland, not for herself alone, but for us as well, is sustaining the burden of a vital Imperial duty and confronting an overmastering necessity of national existence. BRINGING THE BEST ASSISTANCE THAT WE MAY IN THE URGENCY OF THE MOMENT, WE COME THUS TO HER AID, IN TOKEN OF OUR DETERMINATION TO PROTECT AND ENSURE THE SAFETY AND INTEGRITY OF THIS EMPIRE, AND OF OUR RESOLVE TO DEFEND ON SEA AS WELL AS ON LAND, OUR FLAG, OUR HONOUR, AND OUR HERITAGE."

"THESE SHIPS WILL BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE OF THE EMPIRE. They will be maintained and controlled as part of the Royal Navy, and we have the assurance that if at any time in the future it should be the will of the Canadian people to establish a Canadian unit of the Royal Navy, these vessels can be recalled by the Canadian Government to form part of that unit, in which case, of course, they would be maintained by Canada and not by Great Britain. In the meantime, I am assured that special arrangements will be made to give Canadians the opportunity of serving as officers on these ships."

"UPON THE INFORMATION WHICH I HAVE DISCLOSED TO THE HOUSE, THE SITUATION IS, IN MY OPINION, SUFFICIENTLY GRAVE TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE ACTION. We have asked His Majesty's Government in what form temporary and immediate aid can best be given by Canada at this juncture. THE ANSWER HAS BEEN UNHESITATING AND UNEQUIVOCAL."

"These ships will constitute AN AID BROUGHT BY THE CANADIAN PEOPLE TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING as a token of their determination to maintain the integrity of the Empire and to assist in repelling any danger which may threaten its security."

for German cruisers and destroyers were sunk, and not a British ship was lost.

But there was no Canadian ship in line.

MR. A. B. McCOIG (West Kent), March 6th, 1913:—

“It has been stated that emergent conditions exist with respect to the naval defences of the British Empire, but I submit that there is now no emergency.”

MR. JAMES DOUGLAS (Strathcona), March 6th, 1913:—

“Hon. gentlemen opposite have argued that an emergency in the affairs of Great Britain exists, but in my judgment an emergency is very far distant at the present time.”

MR. J. DEMERS (St. John and Iberville), March 6th, 1913:—

“But the emergency theory has failed, it has become the general laughing stock, and justly so.”

HON. CHARLES MURPHY (Russell), March 6th, 1913:—

“The right hon. the Leader of the Opposition, on Feb. 27, said that this bill and the proposals of the government had been submitted to Parliament and the country under false pretences. These words very aptly describe the bogus emergency advanced at the beginning of this discussion for the purpose of alarming the people. As has been said, that emergency was taken to England by the Prime Minister.”

MR. W. E. KNOWLES (Moose Jaw), March 6th, 1913:—

“If this House should tonight say that it desired to encourage the love making between Great Britain and Germany, and that for fear of placing a fly in the ointment by giving three Dreadnoughts to Great Britain, it would go no further at the present time, I think it would do a good deal to encourage the kindly feelings between the two countries and aid in the consummation of peace.”

MR. A. K. MACLEAN (Halifax), March 6th, 1913:—

“Earlier in this debate these hon. gentlemen justified their position by the plea of an emergency. But nobody now pretends that there is an emergency which justifies the expenditure proposed by this bill. Hon. gentlemen opposite ask this House to vote \$35,000,000 upon the ground that a war between Great Britain and Germany is imminent, which I absolutely deny.”

“Hon. gentlemen opposite are blinded by this imaginary war scare, which is mirrored in their minds by their Unionist

party friends in Great Britain. They should make less haste in an expenditure of \$35,000,000 when there is no justification for anticipating any naval conflict between Great Britain and Germany."

MR. I. J. PAPINEAU (Beauharnois), March 7th, 1913:—

"We are asked to adopt, on the ground of emergency, that is to say, a present and pressing need. However, I must admit that I do not discover in the terms of this memorandum that there exists such a state of things."

"Section 9 of the memorandum states that Great Britain is in a position to look after the defence of the Empire, and that whatever be the decision of Canada she will look after our defence as in past years."

MR. WM. CHISHOLM (Antigonish), March 7th, 1913:—

"If there was an emergency we could justify a contribution, but who is there today who says that there is an emergency?"

MR. D. A. LAFORTUNE (Montealm), March 7th, 1913:—

"True, pretty gifts keep up friendship. On New Year's Day, for instance, if one gives a fine hat, or a muff, or a diamond ring to his wife, he is better loved on the day following. But I do not favour the idea of taking our money and applying it for the purposes of some other country."

DR. MICHAEL CLARK (Red Deer), March 7, 1913:—

"The government are proposing that we should go back to the irresponsible mechanism of Downing Street to running one of the public services of Canada. It will never last."

HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Rouville), March 7th, 1913:—

"There seems to be at work not only in England, but in Great Britain, silent forces with the object of subduing, or reducing, if possible, the greater freedom of the self-governing countries. Those silent forces have been at work very insidiously for the last fifteen or twenty years, never so actively as during the last five or ten years. The present policy of the Government is said to be the outcome of an emergency. That emergency was invented by those silent forces in order to obtain what they have been aiming at during the last twenty years."

"If you read the press today you can scent, so to speak, an alliance between Great Britain and Germany."

HON. GEORGE P. GRAHAM (South Benfrew), March 7th, 1913:—

"A few weeks or months ago hon. gentlemen opposite thought there was an emergency, because they were told so, because their press said so. Today that idea has been abandoned. Another turn has been taken by the Prince of Turners, the present Government. That emergency is a myth at the present time. The war scare, if I might be permitted to quote from an official document, is the greatest humbug 'that science can devise or money procure'."

"I visited Germany a few years ago; I gave some attention to the war scare, and I found, outside of one military officer, not one single man who thought there was the slightest danger of war ever occurring between England and Germany."

"These people are looking more to their development as a great commercial and industrial country than they are to military conquest, and they are not thinking about pouncing down on Great Britain."

"Germany finds that she has to look in another direction for her enemies, and I think it would not be going too far to say that we in the House will not have long to wait before we find an alliance between Great Britain and Germany."

MR. JACQUES BUREAU (Three Rivers), March 8th, 1913:—

"This emergency was created for the purpose of giving the Cabinet a pretext to bring down this measure."

MR. F. F. PARDEE (West Lambton), March 8th, 1913:—

"It seems almost ridiculous to take up the time of the House to argue regarding an emergency. When this measure was introduced by the Prime Minister the Toronto "News," the Montreal "Star," and every other Conservative newspaper was made to do duty on the emergency question. That was nearly four months ago, and yet the emergency has never emerged; there is nothing doing in the emergency line. Further and further off the emergency gets. Germany has no idea of attacking Great Britain, as was succinctly shown in the article from the "Spectator," read by the hon. member for Red Deer yesterday. On account of the Balkan war new powers have arisen in Europe, and it was shown that so far as Germany is concerned she was simply going on with a programme to guard herself against enemies nearer home than Great Britain, and that Great Britain was not in her mind at all. The talk of emergency which hon. gentlemen opposite put on the slate on December 5th, when they laid the Admiralty memorandum on the table, has been getting further away month by month, and today is absolutely wiped off."

MR. ALPHONSE VERVILLE (Maisonneuve), March 8th, 1913:—

"Why should we impose a surcharge of taxation on German workmen by the fact that Canada will give three men-of-war to England, which fact puts Germany to the necessity of increasing

its navy, with its sequel of new taxes, which will weigh so much heavier on the German workman?"

"I am not in favour of any navy whatever just now."

"The German peril has been created by English builders. They both need that peril so as to inspire the necessary fear and give impetus to their industry."

MR. E. W. NESBITT (North Oxford), March 8th, 1913:—

"It is hardly necessary to point out that we on this side of the House do not believe that any such emergency exists, and I am quite sure that even hon. gentlemen on the other side do not really believe there is any."

HON. WILLIAM PUGSLEY (St. John), March 8th, 1913:

"I say that there is not one word in the memorandum from beginning to end which even conveys the impression that the British Admiralty has asked for the loan of three Dreadnaughts, and the newspapers which are seeking to impress the people of the country with the idea that the Government is taking their course because the British Admiralty has requested that they do so are simply deceiving the people."

MR. J. J. HUGHES (Kings, P. E. I.), March 8th, 1913:—

"No Canadian now seriously believes in an emergency, because we have overwhelming evidence to the contrary."

MR. D. C. ROSS (Middlesex W.), March 8th, 1913:—

"This question of taxation for ships has been one of the most important in British history. There was a time when the King of England attempted to enforce what came to be known as "ship-money" on one John Hampton, an imposition which the courts at that time held to be absolutely legal. But it cost the King his throne and afterwards his head."

MR. J. G. TURRIFF (Assiniboia), March 10th, 1913:—

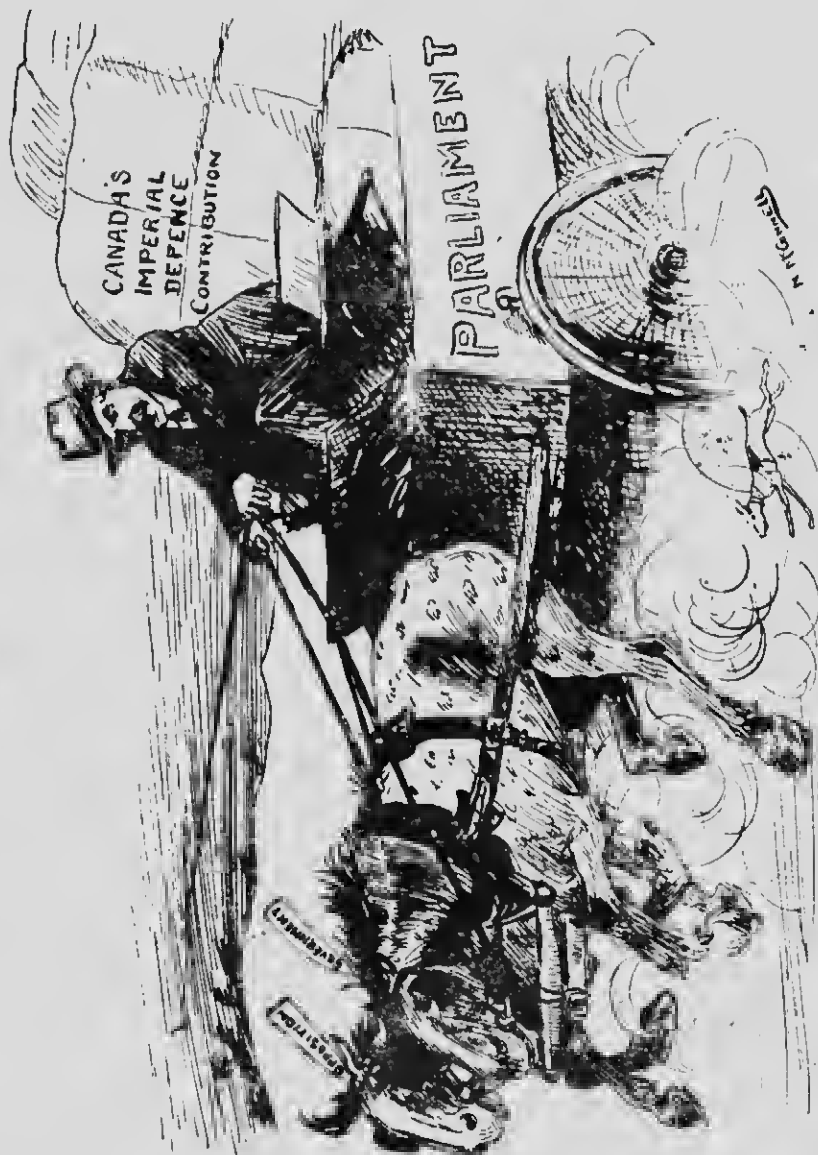
"I have already said that whether there was an emergency or not, there is no emergency now."

"There is absolutely no chance of trouble between Great Britain and Germany. In months past the two governments have been on the most friendly terms. In connection with the Balkans their interests are largely the same. They are working together, and if there ever was an emergency at any time that emergency has entirely disappeared."

MR. D. D. McKENZIE (Cape Breton S.), March 11th, 1913:—

"But there is no evidence of an emergency at the present time."

Delayed In Delivery



Sir Robert Borden : " If that Opposition Horse hadn't Balked these Goods would have been Delivered long ago."

MR. T. MacNUTT (Saltscoats), March 11th, 1913:—

“Recent disclosures show that there is no emergency.”

“In some time past the utterances of the best authorities in Germany and in Great Britain go to show that there is no German scare, that Great Britain and Germany are on the friendliest terms and likely to continue so.”

HON. WILLIAM PUGSLEY (St. John), March 12th, 1913:

“I say that the ignorance displayed in that memorandum of Canadian conditions and of Canadian people is enough to make a horse laugh.”

MR. B. B. LAW (Yarmouth), March 12th, 1913:—

“I believe that today the relations between Great Britain and Germany are most kindly and friendly, and if the jingo elements on both sides of the water were throttled and kept down, the good relations between those countries would be maintained.”

“I believe that as England's disputes with France for several generations have ended happily without a war, so will England and Germany come to live on friendly terms without war.”

MR. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou), March 12th, 1913:—

“As the representative of a free people, I resent and object to this unwarranted interference with our own affairs in this Dominion by this First Lord of the Admiralty, who has penned a document which is based on incorrect and untrue information, and who for the first time since we have had responsible government has undertaken to come in here and interfere in a domestic matter and tell the people what they ought to do with regard to it.”

MR. L. J. PAPINEAU (Beauharnois), March 13th, 1913:

“We tell him the same thing today, and, however, under the pretence of emergency, he wants us to adopt a law giving or lending the Admiralty three battleships, for which the country shall pay \$35,000,000, and to be represented in the Council of Imperial Defence, without any mandate so to do.”

MR. J. J. HUGHES (Kings, P. E. I.), March 13th, 1913:—

“The question of an emergency having been disposed of, is there any other reason why we should be asked to support the bill now before the House? I do not know of any.”

HON. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure), March 13th,
1912:—

“We had been contending that there was no emergency, but that England was well able to face the German contingency which has existed for the last five years or more. We have contended that there was no necessity for Canada to butt in with an offer of \$35,000,000. These were more or less mere statements on our part, though substantiated by the utterances of eminent men in the British Parliament. But nothing is so convincing as figures, and nothing so eloquent as cold print. We have now the complete confirmation of what we have been saying.”

MR. P. J. A. CARDIN (Richelieu), March 13th, 1913:—

“There is no longer any emergency, or at least there is no such emergency as they claimed there existed at first.”

MR. C. A. WILSON (Laval), March 13th, 1913:—

“I believe, with the member from Jacques Cartier, that this bill is absolutely unconstitutional, that we have no right to give these millions away, I do not say to a foreign government, but to an administration to which this Parliament is foreign, and which is responsible but to the British Isles.”

HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Ronville), March 13th,
1913:—

“The so-called emergency has petered out. I am afraid that the right hon. gentleman is under the influence of the scare-mongers of Great Britain.

“Well, after all, there is no danger. We have the panic-mongers of today trying to agitate the dominions; but the papers of yesterday give us the information that, far from fearing a war with Germany, His Majesty the King of Great Britain is sending the Prince of Wales to spend the Easter holidays at Berlin. The emergency and the panic are good for the children, but they will not appeal to the true Britisher or the stout-hearted Canadian. All this is being engineered by some interests who control a certain press.”

MR. A. LACHANCE (Quebec Centre), March 13th, 1913:

“That emergency plea was a pure invention, which the government undoubtedly think very clever, but which was greeted by an outburst of laughter both in England and in Canada.”

MR. J. DEMERS (St. John and Iberville), March 14th,
1913:—

“The present action of the government is so extraordinary, so unconstitutional, so anti-Canadian, so anti-autonomous, that it had to invent emergency in order to justify its action.”

MR. P. A. SEGUIN (L'Assomption), March 14th, 1913:—

"For my part, Mr. Speaker, I consider that it is altogether unconstitutional, absolutely unreasonable, to take the Canadian people's money, to give it in pure loss to the British Admiralty."

SIR WILFRID LAURIER, April 7th, 1913:—

"I am told that the present policy is an emergency contribution. **Emergency!** Who can talk about emergency? The very idea of emergency has been by the discussion dissipated, just as the mist of the morning is dissipated by the rays of the rising sun."

"Since the commencement of this debate there have come from Germany, which has been considered the chief source of danger, from no less an authority than the German Secretary of the Navy, words which lead us to believe that at no distant date a stop may be put to this mad folly of armaments, which has been going on for some years past. This is our present condition."

MR. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou), April 7th, 1913:—

"We have the positive certainty, backed by authorities in England, official and non-official, and by all the public press of the Mother Country that there is no emergency."

"As a result of the discussion which has been carried on in this Parliament by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, when we have said to the Ministers on the other side, 'You are wrong in respect of this idea that the fate of the Empire is to be decided by conditions in the North Sea'; when we said that the expenditure of that large amount in the manner proposed was unnecessary, unwarranted and unjustified, the people of the country will be bound to say that the views of the opposition upon this question were correct, and that the views of the Government were absolutely wrong."

MR. F. B. CARVELL (Carleton, N.B.), April 8th, 1913:—

"But there are other cogent reasons which might be advanced to show the absolute nonsense of this emergency toll."

"Now, when you consider facts like these, not to mention the hundreds of cruisers, torpedo boats, torpedo boat destroyers and submarines that go to make up a fighting force, and compare the British navy with other navies of the world, I have no hesitation in repeating the statement often made here, that all these emergency scares and all this German war talk are manufactured absolutely and solely by parties in England for the purpose of selling guns, building ships and making money out of naval contracts."

MR. WM. CHISHOLM (Antigonish), May 7th, 1913:—

"But thanks to the opposition and to the so-called obstruction, which was not obstruction at all, the people have had time

to reflect, and they now see that there is no such thing as an emergency. They have discovered that the conditions in Europe are seemingly of the most pacific character, and that there is nothing whatever to justify the suspicion of any estrangement or of any ill-feeling between England and Germany."

"The so far as an emergency is concerned, that argument has been knocked into a cocked hat. Nobody takes the emergency seriously."

MR. F. B. CARVELL (Carleton, N.B.), May 7th, 1913:—

"No reasonable thinking man in the British Empire would say that there is an emergency at the present time."

HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Rouville), May 7th, 1913:

"Semi-barbarians in the Balkans can fight, but The Hague tribunal is the great institution of this modern age, and we shall never hear of a conflict between two such highly civilized peoples as these of Great Britain and Germany."

MR. WM. GERMAN (Welland), May 8th, 1913:—

"I say there never was an emergency; the right hon. gentleman knew there was not an emergency, because every Minister of the Crown in Great Britain, including his particular friend, the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, always said there was no emergency."

MR. W. F. CARROLL (Cape Breton, N.S.), May 9th, 1913:

"But there was no emergency last fall, when this bill was introduced; there is no emergency today, and if we are to judge from the report of the newspapers and the recent utterances of statesmen in England, there is not much fear of an emergency in the near future."

MR. E. W. NESBITT (North Oxford), May 9th, 1913:—

"We all know, the country at large knows, the people of Great Britain and Europe know, that there is no emergency at this time, therefore, the excuse for sending of these \$35,000,000 passes away. Then why vote for it?"

MR. J. J. HUGHES (Kings, P.E.I.), May 9th, 1913:—

"An emergency must be sudden in order to be an emergency. It must be a temporary condition of affairs. It must rise up quickly and in all probability it passes away quickly. There is no such thing as that now."

MR. J. A. C. ETHIER (Two Mountains), May 9th, 1913:—

“I will not now discuss the question of emergency; such was the pretext invoked by the Prime Minister the better to force that law upon us. There is no more talk today of emergency.”

MR. B. B. LAW (Yarmouth), May 9th, 1913:—

“Then, again, I am opposed to it (the bill) because the people, or some of them only, were deceived by the cry that an emergency existed, and that Great Britain and Germany were on the verge of war.”

“I am convinced more than ever that no emergency then existed, and that it will not be found to exist in the distant future, when Germany and Great Britain will have a further agreement as to the building of war ships.”

MR. LEVI THOMPSON (Qu'Appelle), May 9th, 1913:—

“We have heard a great deal about an emergency, but as my time is limited I think I will have to leave it out. It has pretty well escaped, and I do not think we can do anything more now than chase it. Anyway, we need not worry ourselves about it.”

MR. HUGH GUTHRIE (South Wellington), May 9th, 1913:—

“Where the government went wrong was when they went to England last year and imagined from what they heard there that there was some foundation for the German war scare. I believe the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill put one over on them, and he knows it.”

“It was a German war scare which had no foundation in fact and no reality.”

MR. W. F. CARROLL (Cape Breton North), May 15th, 1913:—

“I do not think any man who has any grasp upon public opinion, either in this country or in the British Empire at large, will say that at the present stage there is an emergency of any kind within the British Empire.”

SIR WILFRID LAURIER, May 15th, 1913:—

“When, some few months ago, in the earliest days of this session, members who support the government were told that there was an emergency in the affairs of Great Britain, and that Great Britain should receive the assistance of this country, they did not suspect, I am sure, that before the last vote would

be taken they would have in their hands absolute evidence of the falsity of the assertion which was then made."

HON. GEO. P. GRAHAM (S. Renfrew), May 15th, 1913:—

"That emergency is very elusive. It has been gathered to its fathers, and it has departed unsept, unhonoured and unsung."

"We might as well admit, and hon. gentlemen in this House and the people of the country know it, that there is no emergency."

The Same During the 1913-14 Session,

The Laurier Senate still being in control when the session of 1913-14 opened, Sir Robert Borden decided it would be unwise to reintroduce the Naval Aid Bill, knowing full well that the Laurier henchmen in the Upper House would again kill it. Rather than that the country should witness once again such a disgraceful spectacle as marked the previous session, the Leader of the Government left the question of Naval Aid in abeyance, fully confident that the time would soon come when a reactionary Liberal Senate could no longer defy the will of the people.

Throughout the 1913-14 session, notwithstanding the fact that the subject was not under discussion, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal members continued to make slighting and taunting remarks about the "Emergency." So bitterly partisan were they that they could not leave the question lie, though proofs continued to accumulate that the "Emergency" was anything but a myth.

Some of their sarcastic and unpatriotic references to the "Emergency" were as follows:—

Remember, some of these words were uttered in the House of Commons less than two months before war was actually declared by Great Britain.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER, January 19, 1914:—

"I do not charge any intention of deceit on the part of the Prime Minister in this regard, but I will charge deceit if, in the face of this evidence, we again hear of such a thing as an emergency.

"The German peril has disappeared, if, indeed, there ever was such a thing."

"We know now how much the country and the Empire and the civilized world has been deceived upon that question of so-called emergency."

"The Bill which was brought in last session (the Naval Aid Bill) was not even a measure of emergency, although it was so called. They introduced it upon the shallow pretence of emergency. Emergency? Who speaks today of emergency? Twelve months have passed since my right hon. friend the Prime Minister introduced his measure. Twelve months and more have passed since that time when he saw the German peril. He saw Ger-

many almost ready to jump at the throat of Great Britain. He saw clouds on the horizon rent by lightning, and heard the murmurs and rumbling of cannon. But my right hon. friend today may live in peace. The climate is moderate and the sky is clear."

"The non-introduction of the Bill today is the best possible justification of the attitude of the Liberal party on this question and of the amendment voted by the Senate last session."

HON. RODOLPHE LEMUEUX (Rouville), January 26, 1914:—

"The naval question has been solved; the emergency has disappeared."

MR. E. W. NESBITT (Oxford), January 23, 1914:—

"With all due deference to the jingo and imperialistic elements in the country, I think the ordinary people who have to make their living, no matter what their vocation, whether farming or labouring, are very well satisfied that the Liberals, by their efforts, were the means of defeating a proposed grant of \$35,000,000 towards increasing the naval armaments of Great Britain, which grant would have had the effect of increasing the naval armaments of the other European powers."

"The mere fact of our contribution to an increase in the British navy would have been sufficient, in my judgment, to have stirred the German Empire, which is the nation that has been principally mentioned, to greater effort. We know that the Germans are very human in that regard. We know also that they have the means, because they did not reduce their naval expenditure, while they enormously increased their expenditure on their land forces during last session. That surely is an indication to us that, if we had joined with Great Britain in building more ships, that would have been the very thing that would have made the Germans increase their navy instead of decreasing it."

MR. A. K. McLEAN (Halifax), January 20, 1914:—

"I anticipate that we never shall again hear from hon. gentlemen opposite a word concerning an emergency naval policy."

"This policy was urged upon the ground that Britain's supremacy was imperilled, and that a great conflict was imminent between two great European powers. Tokens and signs, we were told, were not wanting; there were pealings of thunder and flashes of lightning, premonitions of this terrible naval conflict between two great naval powers. And upon this ground we were urged, cajoled and threatened to support this measure of the Government. We were told it was purely an emergency policy; that the Government had in mind the adoption of a permanent policy which they would shortly present to Parlia-

ment. Several months at least have passed since then. The evidence of the emergency conditions and of the European Armageddon has vanished."

DR. MICHAEL CLARK (Red Deer), January 19, 1914:—

"The whole case of contribution was a case of emergency, and the emergency disappeared when the fleet went to Gibraltar. And if it disappeared at that time, where is the emergency today?"

HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Rouville), June 9th, 1914:

"Last year he (Sir Robert Borden) brought forward his contribution policy to meet an emergency which did not exist, and which has burst like a bubble. That policy made Canada the laughing stock of Great Britain and of all the other Overseas Dominions."

"Who thinks of his emergency today? I dare say that not one of the blatant jingoes of the city of Toronto believes in that emergency today. It was a scare-line policy to recoup the jingo capitalists of Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal, who had financed the Tory party in 1911 against the farmers, the taxpayers of Canada."

"No more mention is made of the \$35,000,000; the Admiralty does not want our gold any more, the trick has been played out.".....

HON. GEO. P. GRAHAM (South Renfrew), June 9th, 1914:—

"I earnestly entertain the hope that in the future the Government will not be stampeded by anybody into an emergency that is only in the clouds. I hope and trust that they will not see any thunderbolts when there is no thunder; that they will not see any flashes of lightning when there is no storm."

DR. MICHAEL CLARK (Red Deer), June 9th, 1914:—

"I have a right to congratulate those of us who, from the beginning of these debates over five years ago, pleaded that we should not be carried away by what is commonly called jingoism, to the exaggeration of emergencies, or to the imagination of emergencies, as being justified by the events of today. I think the country should be congratulated that the emergency is over.".....

In the Light of What Occurred.

How contemptible these statements appear now in the light of what has since occurred. The "Emergency" was real; the need for aid was imperative. Yet, when Great Britain was preparing to meet the shock

of a conflict without parallel in the history of the world, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his henchmen gambled with the destiny of the Empire. They fiddled at the game of party politics while Europe trembled on the verge of the most gigantic war of all history.

In these circumstances remember that the aid withheld from Britain was in reality aid given to Germany.

Now Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his followers come along with a tardy eleventh-hour repentance. Their scoffs of a few months ago have been turned to prayers,—not so much for the safety of the Empire, but that the Canadian public may deal with them less harshly than they deserve. Their protestations of loyalty will avail them nothing now—it comes too late to be sincere. Let them stick to their “autonomy,” their “neutrality,” and their “independence.” The Canadian people will have none of them, for they have implicit faith in the present Government, because Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues endeavoured to prepare for the coming of the “emergency.” They know their duty and tried to perform it, but, remember, Laurier and his Senate held them back.

It is good for Canada that Laurier did not “finish his work.”

Liberals sneered at the existence of an “emergency”; they refused “effective aid” to Britain’s navy; the very existence of the Empire at stake they thought only of party expediency.

Weighed in the balances, they have been found wanting.

Under the present leader, and as so constituted today, the Liberal party is utterly unfit for public trust.

Their own words and actions condemn them.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier by one foul blow deprived the British navy of three great battleships—more than the whole German navy has succeeded in doing since war was declared on August 4 last.

April 1915.

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