

in the naval policy of the British War Office. From recent advices it appears that at Halifax and Esquimalt both the naval squadrons and the military garrisons will be either greatly reduced or entirely withdrawn. The duty of manning these important garrisons will then devolve upon Canada. The present disposition of the Canadian Government seems to indicate a complete willingness to accept this responsibility.

The action of the War Office may awaken some surprise throughout the Dominion; but it could well be expected. Considerable animus existed in the British mind over the attitude of our representatives at the Colonial Conference regarding an Imperial defence scheme. Whether from a fear of militarism or from anticipation of great sectional opposition in Canada, Premier Laurier withstood, perhaps wisely, any suggestion of a naval contribution or a substantial increase in our domestic military forces, such as was contemplated by the War Office authorities. Without a definite mandate from Parliament, that pledge could not have been given. But British opinion was disappointed. The reply to the conference decision may be interpreted in the verdict of the Alaska Boundary Commission, and may, later on, be further emphasized in territorial questions not yet settled.

The removal of the active naval base is, however, no danger or hardship to Canada. The action of the admiralty, if carried out, shows a certain degree of confidence in Canadian efficiency of defence. Moreover, the change is due to strategic policy, which insures that Halifax will be, in event of international trouble, always within six days' sail of a naval squadron—a quite sufficient security. The garrisoning of the fortresses, and the provision for marine protection will be an immediate obligation of the Government, and in accepting this the Canadian people will furnish refutation of the parsimonious charges against us by British critics. At the same time Canada will gain materially in national prestige; for by relieving Great Britain of an onerous task we will have rendered to Imperial defence a noteworthy contribution.

Diverting Waterways

RECENT indications point to the need for strong representations on the part of our Government to Washington. The continued exploitation of power, and the energy of countless corporations to that end, has led to mechanical interference with waterways or projects pointing thereto, that threaten seriously the impairment of Canadian water levels. While this is true at various border points, no more flagrant a scheme was ever conceived than that which, though, as yet not fully outlined, but likely to be carried to a mature stage, proposed to alter the direction of the watershed of the States bordering on Eastern Manitoba and New Ontario. Further information will be necessary before the full scheme is explained. Let it suffice to say that should the plan materialize, enormous damage will accrue to the district of Southern Manitoba, both in the climatology and water supply.

From this and other points there is room for active inquiry and an aggressive protest to American Legislatures. If Canada must insist on anything it will be the intact condition of border waterways, and the fair employment of the same for either country.

Our Inland Fisheries Threatened

IN this same connection another condition of affairs has been some time existent to the vexation of Canadian rights. The recent launching of the Canadian protective cruiser, *Vigilant*, from the Polson's Iron Works Wharf, Toronto, and her subsequent trial trip to Cleveland in acceptable form, gives to inland waters a much-needed additional safeguard against the persistent encroachments of American poachers upon Canadian fishing grounds on the Great Lakes. It appears that not being content merely with draining to depletion the supply of available fish upon their own shores, rendered possible by the laxity of American fishery laws, they seek also to rob Canadian shores of the remaining available supply.

From this we judge the stringency of the Canadian regulations is being exercised in