

naval forces of the Empire to be cited as "The Naval Aid Act" and proposes the expenditure of thirty-five million dollars on the three largest battleships in the world, to be presented to the British Admiralty as a gift from Canada.

The Resolution, as moved by the Right Hon. R. L. Borden, was as follows:—

"Resolved, That it is expedient, in connection with the Bill now before this House intituled An Act to authorize measures for increasing the effective Naval Forces of the Empire, to provide:—

(a) That from and out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada there may be paid and applied a sum not exceeding thirty-five million dollars for the purpose of immediately increasing the effective Naval Forces of the Empire;

(b) That the said sum shall be used and applied under the direction of the Governor in Council in the construction and equipment of battleships or armoured cruisers of the most modern and powerful type;

(c) That the said ships, when constructed and equipped, shall be placed by the Governor in Council at the disposal of His Majesty for the common defence of the Empire; and

(d) That the said sum shall be paid, used and applied, and the said ships shall be constructed and placed at the disposal of His Majesty subject to such terms, conditions and arrangements as may be agreed upon between the Governor in Council and His Majesty's Government.

Dec. 12th—**Sir Wilfrid Laurier moves an amendment** as follows:—

That all the words after the word 'That' be struck out, and the following be substituted therefor:—

'This House declines to concur in the said resolution and orders that the same be referred back to the committee with instructions to amend the same in the following particulars, namely, to strike out all the words after clause (a) and substitute therefor the following:—

'The memorandum prepared by the Board of Admiralty on the general naval situation of the Empire and communicated to this House by the Right Hon. the Prime Minister on December 5th shows that several of the most important of the foreign powers have adopted a definite policy of rapidly increasing their naval strength.

'That this condition has compelled the United Kingdom to concentrate its naval forces in home waters, involving the withdrawal of ships from the outlying portions of the Empire.

*Mr. Borden has since changed the nature of his proposal. In introducing the resolution in the House of Commons on Dec. 5, 1912, he said, "Every Canadian will realize in seeing or reading of these ships that they are a gift in which we have participated." In speaking on the second reading of the resolution in the House of Commons on Feb. 13, 1913, he said, "We do not propose that these ships shall pass out of the ownership of the Canadian people or government. Our proposal is that those ships shall be in the ownership of the Canadian people."