


partners should make both a financial and a personal contribution, and which in time of war should be placed under Imperial control for use wherever it was required, was strongly urged by our Admiralty. Personal negotiations were conducted with the various Premiers, with the result that the Premiers of Cape Colony and Natal agreed to recommend their Governments to make a slight increase on their small contributions to the Navy, while Australia and New Zealand agreed to contribute a sum of £200,000 and £40,000 respectively. Canada, be it observed, is not able to make any offer of assistance like the others, because "the Government of the Dominion are contemplating the establishment of a local naval force in the waters of Canada," *i.e.* she would have nothing to do with an Imperial Navy.

Although the First Lord of the Admiralty pointed out in plain terms* the utter insufficiency of these contributions, no attempt appears to have been made to come to an intercolonial agreement upon any basis of contribution whatever. No Premier cared to engage his Colony to bear a "fair" share of the burden of an Imperial Navy.

Now let us turn to Military Defence. The Secretary for War pleaded for an Army Reserve of the Imperial force, consisting of men to be trained and supported by the several Colonies, with a view of acting as an Imperial force and "with a liability to oversea service." The reserve pay of a body of 20,000 men thus trained would only amount to a sum of about £180,000 a year spread over all the Colonies.

This scheme, apparently concocted between the Secretary for War and Mr. Seddon, had the support of the representatives of Cape Colony and Natal, but was rejected by those of Canada and Australia upon the ground that, "To establish a special force, set apart for general Imperial service, and practically under the absolute control of the Imperial Government, was objectionable in theory as derogating from the powers of self-government enjoyed by them, and



* Cd. 1299, page 18.