

"the North Sea, upon the waters bathing our own shores, a great power which has got the capacity, and which looks as if it had the will, to compete with us in point of actual numbers of great battle-ships."

Prime Minister Asquith also emphatically declared:—"We, whose whole national life and security depend upon our supremacy at sea, cannot afford to go behind, to slacken our efforts, or to put ourselves in such a position that any contingency that might occur could possibly menace that independence and supremacy."

Later in the month, in opposing, in the English House of Commons, an opposition vote of censure on the Government for a Naval policy which, it was alleged, does not sufficiently secure "the safety of the Empire," Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary of England, made the deliberate statement that:—"A new situation is for this country created by the German program. Whether that program is carried out quickly or slowly, the fact of its existence makes a new situation When that program is completed, Germany—a country close to our own shores—will have a fleet of thirty-three Dreadnoughts. This fleet will be the most powerful which the world has ever seen."

By this time the German scare had permeated the whole Empire. Immediate preparations were made by the British Admiralty for laying down four more Dreadnoughts in addition to the four already provided for in the earlier estimates of that year. In the meantime, the public press of Canada, and various public bodies and prominent citizens, gave repeated expressions to the demand that Canada should make an effective contribution, either in money or in ships, to secure and maintain the supremacy of the British navy, though it was made clearly apparent that there were many who did not approve of the idea of contribution, and who favoured the suggestion that Canada should do nothing more than provide adequate protection for her own sea coasts.

The Naval Question in Canada

A discussion arose in the Canadian House of Commons on March 29th, upon a resolution presented by Hon. George E. Foster, one of the Leaders of the Conservative Opposition, to the effect that:—"In view of her great and varied resources, of her geographical position and national environment, and of that spirit of self-help and self-