

it not only reasonable that Canada should be in a position to take care of and protect our own fishing fleets, sailing in Canadian waters. There never has been a time when the want of a Canadian Navy has been more keenly felt than at the present. We are at war and we want a Navy to drive the enemy from our shores, and protect our ships sailing in Canadian waters. Is it not a fact that the very type of vessel is at present being built in Montreal for the British Navy, which we require for our own coast defence, viz., the submarine chaser? Would it not, therefore, be advisable to get some of these or similar craft included in our Canadian Navy, in order that they might be placed in commission with as little delay as possible? It would also be advisable in my opinion to have guns placed on all fishing vessels of sufficient size, which would at least give each boat a fighting chance. These are, however, all matters which I trust will be taken into consideration at an early date by the Marine Department.

Unless something of a definite nature be done while we have an enemy to fight, there will be a strong tendency with a very large section of the Canadian people to come to the conclusion when the war is over, that a Navy, as far as Canada is concerned, will not be necessary.

Trusting that the information and suggestions which I am now sending you may prove useful, and assuring you of my continued support, I remain,

Yours very faithfully,

J. W. WILKINSON,

Late R.N.A.V.