

resources, to the maintenance of the British navy.

3. It has, however, long been recognized that in defining the conditions under which the naval forces of the empire should be developed, other considerations than those of strategy alone must be taken into account. The various circumstances of the oversea dominions have to be borne in mind.

4. The main duty of the forthcoming conference as regards naval defence will be, therefore, to determine the form in which the various dominion governments can best participate in the burden of imperial defence with due regard to varying political and geographical conditions. Looking to the difficulties involved, it is not to be expected that the discussions with the several Defence Ministers will result in a complete and final scheme of naval defence, but it is hoped that it will be found possible to formulate the broad principles upon which the growth of colonial naval forces should be fostered. While laying the foundations of future dominion navies to be maintained in different parts of the empire, these forces would contribute immediately and materially to the requirements of imperial defence.

I pass certain paragraphs which go to maintain absolutely the contention which I am endeavouring to support, and I come to the close of the memorandum:

13. *Pari passu* with the creation of the fleet unit, it would be necessary to consider the development of local resources in everything which relates to the maintenance of a fleet. A careful inquiry should be made into the shipbuilding and repairing establishments with a view to their general adaptation to the needs of the local squadron. Training schools for officers and men would have to be established; arrangements would have to be made for the manufacture, supply, and replenishment of the various naval, ordnance and victualling stores required by the squadron.

14. All these requirements might be met according to the views of the dominion governments, in so far as the form and manner of the provision made are concerned. But as regards shipbuilding, armaments and warlike stores, &c., on the one hand, and training and discipline in peace and war, on the other, there should be one common standard. If the fleet unit maintained by a dominion is to be treated as an integral part of the imperial forces, with a wide range of interchangeability among its component parts with those forces, its general efficiency should be the same, and the facilities for refitting and replenishing His Majesty's ships, whether belonging to a dominion fleet or to the fleet of the United Kingdom, should be the same. Further, as it is a *sine qua non* that successful action in time of war depends upon unity of command and direction, the general discipline must be the same throughout the whole imperial service, and without this it would not be possible to arrange for that mutual co-operation and assistance which would be indispensable in the building up and establishing of a local naval force in close connection with the Royal navy. It has been recognized by the colonial

governments that in time of war the local naval forces should come under the general directions of the admiralty.

All this was fully approved by our own delegates. Their conclusions, their decision as to what was going to be built, are to be found fully given at page 26 of the printed report.

But I have said that in order to fully understand the extent of this new scheme, one must also take into consideration what seems to have been lost sight of, and was never alluded to in any way, so far as I know, by my right hon. friend, a most important part of the conference which concerns military defence. I do not wish to quote at length although I have marked certain parts of what has reference to that portion of the conference. The military memorandum is absolutely agreed to by our delegates, and I say it results clearly from that military memorandum that if it is carried out, before long what military forces we have in this country will be absolutely at the disposal of the imperial authorities in case of war. I do not wish to quote at length. I affirm that even for a layman like myself, it is impossible to read over that military memorandum approved of by our delegates without arriving at the conclusion that the whole of this scheme exhibits the constant carrying out of what has been characterized in a vague kind of way since some years, in this country and elsewhere, as the imperialist scheme, the putting into execution, the carrying out of what has been for a long time the dream of some people to which I shall refer presently, of a political union, practically, of the empire and the abolition of what is most important in the autonomy of the dependencies, reducing them in a certain sense to mere municipal institutions and conferring upon the imperial authorities at home, without any corresponding privilege, without any granting of further privilege to ourselves, of the absolute right of control without any consultative voice on our part whatever. All this is most important, all that is most precious in the privileges of self-government which we have acquired under circumstances of great stress and difficulty years ago—

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I do not wish to interrupt, but I know the hon. gentleman does not wish to mislead the House. I would ask him to return to the statement made by the Prime Minister of England from which he read a little while ago in which the premier uses these words:

The result is a plan for so organizing the forces of the Crown wherever they are, that while preserving the complete autonomy of each dominion, should the dominions desire