

course which has for the last twelve years been consistently opposed by the Toronto branch of the Navy league. No nation ever amounted to anything that simply paid some other power to take care of it. The spending of Canadian money by the Canadian government in preparation to take our own part in naval warfare is essential to our national growth, and we cannot afford to forego it. It should be made to go hand in hand with the building up of our Canadian mercantile marine as part of a broad national maritime policy. The question, however, as to just what we should provide in the way of men and material is a highly technical one, to be arranged between experts appointed by Canada in consultation with experts appointed by the other parts of the empire. The Australian naval authorities are now exchanging views with the Admiralty with beneficial results. When we speak of a separate Canadian navy, as a distinct fighting unit, we require to consider just what class of ship or character of training will best fit in with the other requirements to give the best results. At the conference in May last, the first Lord of the Admiralty expressed the desire of the British government to meet the wishes of the self-governing dominions in every respect, leaving to each to do little or much, or nothing at all, according to their own will in the matter, and invited them to make such expenditures under the control of their own legislatures along such lines as they thought best suited their respective conditions.

The position taken by Canada's representatives at the conference, namely, that we cannot undertake to do more than we are doing, has been very disappointing to Canadians who wish to see their country take up its proper stand along with Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and who desire to see the adoption of a maritime policy for Canada worthy of the name. The fact is that as between the two political parties in Canada the only difference between their attitude on the question of Canadian naval defence is that one is funky, whilst the other is afraid. What are they afraid of? Why, the French-Canadian vote. If our statesmen could forget partizanship for a sufficient time to make it clear that it is our duty to our own national interests that demands our attention, I have sufficient confidence in my French-Canadian fellow-citizens to feel sure that they will support a movement to co-operate with the British navy, an institution which has been in the past, is at the present time, and will no doubt in the future, be the bulwark under Providence, of their civil and religious liberty.—

Your truly,

H. J. WICKHAM,  
*One of the Vice-Presidents of the Navy League.*