

"We are told," said Lord Beresford, "that the three Canadian ships were 'absolutely necessary' for 'world-wide defence,' and that the three British ships were 'absolutely necessary' to supply the 50 per cent. margin. That argument was based on the number of foreign ships built, building and projected, at the date it was made. In what position do we find ourselves now, when the countries in alliance in the Mediterranean have got beyond the stage of projection, and have actually laid down the new vessels, while they are at the same time projecting further increases?"

An Emergency to be Dealt With.

"All these facts point to an emergency. In this emergency, the British Government refuses to hold consultations with the Dominions on questions connected with Imperial defence as a whole, the explanation being that the political situation is troublesome at home. What on earth have party difficulties to do with the Imperial requirements for the safety of the Empire? Australia, New Zealand and Canada at the present moment are all proposing different methods for Imperial naval defence; unless a conference is held, different policies will cause great confusion and enormous expense, without properly effecting the object in view. How can the strength of the Imperial fleet be automatically expanded and assured unless the Mother Country and the Dominions are agreed on some clear and definite programme?"

Utterly Impossible for Britain to Bear Burden Unaided.

"It is recognized by the Dominions that it is utterly impossible for Great Britain unaided to bear the burden of keeping open the seas for the protec-