

high quality must be considered in so far as it affects the possibilities of adverse combinations being suddenly formed, and that anything which increases the margin in the newest ships, diminishes the strain and augments the security and the chances of being unmolested. They state that, whatever may be the decision of Canada at the present juncture, Great Britain will not in any circumstances fail in her duty to the overseas dominions of the Crown; that the aid which Canada could give at the present time is not to be measured only in ships or money, and that any action on her part to increase the power and mobility of the Imperial Navy would be recognized everywhere as a most significant witness to the united strength of the Empire, and to the renewed resolve of the overseas dominions to take their part in maintaining its integrity. The memorandum concludes with the following now historic words :

"The Prime Minister of the Dominion having inquired in what form any immediate aid that Canada might give would be most effective, we have no hesitation in answering after a prolonged consideration of all the circumstances that it is desirable that such aid should include the provision of a certain number of the largest and strongest ships of war which science can build or money supply."

With the promise made by Mr. Borden in Opposition, with the information obtained in England, with the statement of the Government and Admiralty of Great Britain, with the people of Canada clamoring for some effective action; what was the duty of the Government? Was it to give no aid until the years had elapsed which it would take, first to establish ship yards in Canada, and then to build the ships in them?

Was it their duty to solve permanently, without consulting the people, this great question of Naval Defence, involving as it must in case of war the status of Canada with respect to foreign countries and with respect to Great Britain and the Empire? Or was it to make provision for the building at the earliest possible date of "a certain number of the largest and strongest ships of war which science can build or money supply," and in the meantime to consider carefully the permanent policy and submit it to the people for their verdict?

The Government conceived it to be their duty to adopt the latter of these alternatives, and when presenting to the House the statement of the Admiralty, the Prime Minister presented also a bill to authorize (a) the expenditure of \$35,000,000 "for the purpose of immediately