

ond of alluding. They knew the resolution had placed the Laurier Government in a position where entering upon a permanent naval policy was a necessity, and they believed that with the apathy, and in some parts, open hostility throughout the country, to anything in the nature of a permanent obligation, it might be possible to embarrass the Administration once popular opinion became sufficiently aroused. They said, "this is our chance, let us take advantage of it."

### One Attitude for Quebec Another for Ontario.

The lack of enthusiasm over any naval policy was general throughout Canada. At best, it was looked upon as the discharge of a duty, and electors generally speaking are not as much concerned with duties as with rights. Liabilities are never as popular as assets. But it was in the Province of Quebec that the opposition to a permanent policy was strongest. There the people were led to believe that any permanent Naval policy involved more than the fulfilling of a national duty; it was held to include imperial obligations of a wholly new and in some respects dangerous kind. The whole thing was represented as a deliberate design on the part of British Imperialists to draw Canada, and especially French-Canadians, into the vortex of European militarism.

Entertaining the view that the policy was not popular in Quebec, and that once submitted to the people in that Province the popular vote would be against it, the Tory Leaders decided that when the government brought down its measure, they would meet it by a **proposal to do nothing** involving permanent expenditures without first submitting the permanent policy to the people. On the other hand, it was well known that this purely negative attitude would not prove sufficient, and that such a course, by itself, would beget the active opposition of the jingo element, who were loudest in their insistence on something being done, and that without delay. While numerically this element in the population is by no means the most considerable, the wealth it commands, and the control it exercises over a considerable portion of the press, places it in a way, if it so desires, of making its voice heard and its influence felt. **How to retain the support of this jingo element and at the same time appear to be doing nothing of a permanent nature, became therefore the all important question. The way out was found in the device of an "emergency".** Let an "emergency" be proclaimed, and the British flag sufficiently waved, and the natural impulse of loyal affection for the Mother land might be counted upon to carry through such proposals as might be made and at the same time conceal all ulterior designs.

### The Device of "An Emergency" Used to Serve Party Ends In 1910.

There is no longer any room for doubt, that this was the plan the Conservative Leaders worked out after the session of 1908-09 and decided to begin putting into operation just as soon as the government brought down its measure.

In the belief that a plebiscite would result in his province in a