

The first sentence of the Memorandum is also evidence of this. It is as follows:—

"1. The Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada has invited His Majesty's Government, through the Board of Admiralty, to prepare a statement of the present and immediately prospective requirements of the naval defence of the Empire for presentation to the Canadian Parliament if the Dominion Cabinet deem it necessary."

The Memorandum expressly disclaims any intention to influence public opinion in the matter of the policy to be adopted respecting naval defence, and expressly states that this is a matter for the people of Canada to decide. The last two paragraphs of Section 1 of the Memorandum are as follows:—

"The Admiralty set the greatest store by the important material, and still more important moral, assistance which it is within the power of Canada to give to maintaining British Naval supremacy on the high seas, but they think it necessary to disclaim any intention, however indirect, of putting pressure upon Canadian public opinion, or of seeking to influence the Dominion Parliament in a decision which clearly belongs solely to Canada."

The Admiralty, therefore, confine themselves, in this statement, exclusively to facts, and it is for the Dominion Government and Parliament to draw their own conclusions therefrom.

THE MEMORANDUM CONTAINS NO EVIDENCE OF AN EMERGENCY.

There are ten sections in the Memorandum altogether. Section 1 contains the foregoing declarations.

In Sections 2 to 4 inclusive, it is pointed out that the power of the British Empire is to be measured by reference to other naval forces, and that the development of the German fleet during the last fifteen years is the most striking feature of the naval situation. The extent of the present and possible growth of the German navy is set forth in detail. Paragraph four concludes: "The facts set forth above were laid before the House of Commons on the 22nd July, 1912, by the First Lord of the Admiralty."

There is, therefore, nothing in the Memorandum respecting the German situation which has not already been given to the British public and the world, and which was not before the British Parliament at the time the naval estimates were under discussion and Mr. Borden and his colleagues were in England. With these facts before them, the British Government saw no existence of an emergency. Why, therefore, should the Canadian Government draw inference of any such existing? The statement of British Ministers made in the debates when these facts were laid before the British Parliament are significant, and should be read in Canada when considering the inference to be drawn from the Memorandum.