

ciples upon which the growth of colonial naval forces should be fostered.

July 28th—Conference opened.

Aug. 31st—First meeting of Conference to consider naval defence.

On the naval side, an arrangement was effected whereby Canada and Australia would undertake to provide local Naval services, and New Zealand provide a dreadnought and continue contribution in part payment of coast protection to be provided by Home Government.

At this Conference the Admiralty proposed that "A Dominion government desirous of creating a navy should aim at forming a distinct fleet unit." As regards Canada, it was considered that her double seaboard rendered the provision of a fleet unit unsuitable for the present. It was proposed, according to the amount of money that might be available, that Canada should make a start with cruisers of the "Bristol" class and destroyers of an "Improved River" class-- a part to be stationed on the Atlantic seaboard and a part on the Pacific."

1910.

Jan. 12th—Naval Service Bill introduced in House of Commons by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

March 4th—Naval Service Bill receives royal assent and becomes known as "The Act respecting the Naval Service of Canada."

Contains provision for organization of a Department of Naval Service, the establishing of Naval forces, a Naval college, etc.

Nov. 1st—Esquimalt dockyard and shipping plant taken over by the Canadian Government.

British squadrons withdrawn from Esquimalt Pacific station about this time.

1911.

Jan. 19th—Naval College at Halifax formally opened.

June—Subsidiary Conference of Imperial Conference held in London between the British Admiralty and representatives of the Dominion of Canada and Australia at which it was agreed "The Naval services and forces of the Dominion of Canada and Australia will be exclusively under the control of their respective governments." Agreed also that each country should have its own naval stations. For Canada the latitude and longitude of the Canadian Atlantic Stations and of the Canadian Pacific Stations were definitely determined.

(On July 29th, the Canadian Parliament was dissolved and on September 21st, the Dominion General elections were held and Laurier Administration defeated on Reciprocity.)

1912.

Dec. 5th—Premier Borden, as leader of Conservative Administration, introduces Bill to authorize measures for increasing the effective

*See also reference to this Conference under heading "Military Defence"