

NAVY LEAGUE in CANADA

Shall Canada have a Navy of Her Own?

The Prize Essay.

BY

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The following contribution has been awarded the \$400 prize offered by the Navy League of Canada for the best essay on the question: "Shall Canada have a Navy of Her Own?" The author is Mrs. W. Hewes Oliphant, 210, Simcoe Street, Toronto, Ontario.

No student of the present day, in view of the examples which crowd the history of the past, will attempt to deny to the ships which traverse the world's great highways, an influential, even a commanding share in moulding national destinies. No State has ever attained greatness without asserting and maintaining its title to the free and common use of the sea. No land-locked country has ever achieved any considerable sovereignty.

It is impossible to read Captain Mahan's admirable book, "The Influence of Sea Power upon History," to follow his engrossing story of the development of the great world Powers, to trace in his pages the growth, the perils, the conflicts, the triumphs of the nations of the past, in all of which the ships of history took their magnificent part; to mark, with him, the progress of Britain through the centuries which have developed and crowned her supremacy, without yielding a willing assent to his deduction that power on the high seas means, in the case of any nation, respect and an influential voice abroad, peace, progress, and development at home.