

graduating might return to Canada and spend two or three years in our service; then serve a commission in the Channel or the Mediterranean Fleet; then revert to Canada for another period; and so on through his career. Such of our Canadian officers as proved especially talented might attain high rank in the big navy; such as developed along special lines of activity might be absorbed into the berths which a great navy affords for specialists; many would turn aside into the numerous billets which a Canadian service gradually would create. It would be advisable to have a free influx of British-born officers into our own service. We should have our own little navy, and yet our men would be kept fresh and up to the mark by their recurring plunges into the life and work of the big navy, and by the coming and going of men whose future in the big navy would be affected by their work in our little navy. I am aware that a thousand administrative difficulties would arise in working out the details of such a scheme; but administrative difficulties have been overcome before, and can be again.

Meanwhile, our Canadian Government could be acquiring the ships—gun-vessels, small cruisers, big cruisers, torpedo craft, submarines—as the progress of the service rendered necessary, and could be building upon the shore establishments which go with ships. The ownership of the *matériel* should be strictly Canadian. Meanwhile, also, the officers so trained could be organizing a force of professional naval sailors, engineers, etc. Here again the Royal Navy should be used to the full; our expert gunners should be trained in the "Excellent," our torpedo specialists should pass through the "Vernon," and all our permanent men given a commission or two in the big fleets of the Empire. Still, the permanent forces should be our own, and should be distinctively Canadian. And finally, these professional officers should have the naval militia under their care. Its training would be slight for its duties, so its instructors and leaders should be the best possible.

The remark may be interjected here that such a development would be greatly assisted if the Canadian naval