

1453
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how uncertain it was where nation ended and Empire began." (1)

It may be noted that in these parliamentary debates emphasis was concentrated on Canada's status and relationship in the imperial framework; ^{they} had paid little, if any, attention to the real reason for Canadian naval armament, i.e. the German Naval Bill of 1898 and the growing naval menace of Germany in the 1909-1912 period. Glazebrook has commented that there were some in Canada who minimized this remote threat, and there were others who continued to believe that naval defence was a British and not a Canadian responsibility. The effective majority, however, accepted the proposition that the threat was real, and that Canada must lend aid to combat it; but from that point the debates were on the form of that aid, and controversy and disagreement became acute on the implications of colonial responsibilities and status.*

In the outcome the Commons passed Borden's Naval Aid Bill. The Senate rejected it, and on the outbreak of war in 1914 Canada had virtually no ships. Parliamentary opposition to governmental policy was sufficient to negate the policies of both Laurier and Borden.

(1) Ibid. pp.329-330. See also Glazebrook, op. cit. p.282-6, 293.

* Glazebrook: op. cit. p. 281.