

the time being, but some higher representative authority shall be the judge.

The Australian Commonwealth has adopted the suggestion of a fleet-unit and is already giving it effect. But while the fleet is to be under the control of the Commonwealth whilst employed about the coast of the Commonwealth, in time of war, or emergency *in the opinion of the Senior Naval Officer representing the British Government*, all the vessels of the naval force of the Commonwealth shall be placed under the orders of the Admiralty. So far, however, Canada has not yet agreed to this provision, without which a Canadian fleet would be of little service.

A fleet could not be built and armed and manned in Canada for many years; and for Canada to attempt to build a fleet of warships at the present time would be folly and waste on a gigantic scale. Whatever may be done hereafter, let Canada follow the example of the other colonies, if her help is to be prompt and effective. What valid reason is there why the Admiralty suggestion of a fleet-unit should not at once be acted on, and the necessary funds voted for the building and equipment of the fleet in England, thus having it made ready within two years at the latest? Meanwhile progress could be made with the necessary accessories of such a fleet, and the training colleges for officers and training ships for men who might be recruited in large numbers for the service.

An era of great prosperity is beginning and we are on the eve of an enormous material expansion. If, therefore, the Dominion Parliament will not accept the responsibility of such a step, let the Provinces act as New South Wales and Victoria agreed to do. Or failing this, let the people themselves throughout the Dominion take the matter into their own hands, as they did in the Boer war.