

coming Government to take some action. They assumed office in October, 1911. Parliament met in November, 1911, and was prorogued in April, 1912. Mr. Borden then followed the course indicated by him in 1910. He went to England, consulted the Government and Admiralty there, and brought back their statement.

In this remarkable document the Admiralty refer to the self-evident fact that the power of the British Empire to maintain the superiority on the sea, which is essential to its security, must obviously be measured from time to time by reference to the other naval forces of the world. They give the facts relating to the increase of the German fleet from 1898 onwards, and compare it with the British fleet and its increase during the same period. I shall not weary you with details and figures, or with a confusing comparison between the strength and numbers of the different kinds of ships, but a short allusion to the increase in numbers of officers and men of the German fleet will be illuminating. The Admiralty state that in 1898 the number was 25,000; in 1912 it was 66,000, and in 1920, under the new law, it will be 101,500. They call attention to the explicit declaration of the tactical objects for which the German fleet exists, as set forth in the preamble to the German Naval Law of 1900, as follows :

"In order to protect German trade and commerce under existing conditions, only one thing will suffice, namely, Germany must possess a battle fleet of such a strength that even for the most powerful naval adversary a war would involve such risks as to make that power's own supremacy doubtful. For this purpose it is not absolutely necessary that the German fleet should be as strong as that of the greatest naval power, for, as a rule, a great naval power will not be in a position to concentrate all its forces against us."

The Admiralty point out the rapid and increasing expansion of Canadian sea-borne trade, and truthfully say: "For the whole of this trade, wherever it may be about the distant waters of the world, as well as for the maintenance of her communications both with Europe and Asia, Canada is dependent and has always depended upon the Imperial navy, without corresponding contribution or cost." They emphasize the fact that Great Britain's present naval power must be diminished with the growth not only of the German navy, but by the simultaneous building by many powers of great modern ships of war, and that the existence of a number of navies comprising ships of

9