

outset that in dealing with the Overseas Dominions in the matter of Imperial naval defence, the choice lay between a contribution and Dominion navies, and that the principle presented was a larger one than that merely of naval strategy. The contrast is drawn between contribution and local naval forces and in this connection the Admiralty Memorandum says "It has long been recognized that in defining the conditions under which the naval forces of the Empire should be developed, other considerations than those of strategy, alone must be taken into account."

Many of these considerations are set forth, not the least important of which is **individual national sentiment**, for the expression of which the memorandum states, "room must be found." So much was it taken for granted that the great Overseas Dominions would wish to recognize this national sentiment, that the memorandum sets forth distinctly as **the work of the Conference**, "the formulating of broad principles upon which the growth of colonial naval forces could be fostered," and distinctly states that the main duty of the Conference as regards naval defence would be to determine the form in which the various Dominion Governments could best participate in the burden of Imperial defence, with due regard to varying political and geographical conditions, and the opinion is expressed that "while laying the foundations of future Dominion navies, to be maintained in different parts of the Empire, these forces would contribute immediately and materially to the requirements of Imperial defence."

As a result of this Conference, an agreement was come to as respects Canada, Australia and New Zealand and the obligations they were to assume.

Conference decides Canada to begin organization of Naval service with ships on Atlantic and Pacific.

As respects Canada, the report of the Conference has the following:

"While, on naval strategical considerations, it was thought that a Fleet unit on the Pacific, as outlined by the Admiralty, might in the future form an acceptable system of Naval defence, it was recognized that **Canada's double sea board** rendered the provision of such a fleet unit unacceptable for the present". (Page 26, Imperial Conference 1909).

The Canadian Ministers expressed the amount which in their opinion Parliament would be prepared to vote annually, and thereupon the Admiralty gave its advice as follows:

"Taking, first, the plan for the expenditure of £600,000, after discussion the Admiralty suggested that the Canadian Government might provide a force of cruisers and destroyers comprising four cruisers of improved "Bristol" class, one cruiser of the "Boadicea" class, and six destroyers of improved 'River' class. As regards sub-marines, it would be advisable to defer their construction because they required a highly-trained and specialized complement.