

INTRODUCTION

The writer of the addresses which are herewith submitted to the public, is, and has been for some years, actively interested in the work of the Navy League upon the West Coast of Canada.

His experience has been that there is no lack of interest in the naval defence of the Empire, but that there is a considerable lack of information, and that it is necessary to explain to busy men living at any distance from the sea the vital importance of sea power to them personally, as the basis of that Empire to which they belong, and as an insurance of those businesses upon which they depend for their prosperity.

A beneficent idiot told the writer that in Ontario he would find the farmers absolutely indifferent upon the subject, or even hostile to naval contribution in any form.

Doubting the accuracy of this statement, the writer ventured to take a trip through Ontario, encouraged thereto by the advice of the Navy League at home, the request of his own energetic Committee in Victoria Esquimalt, and the invitations of certain branch leagues in Winnipeg, Toronto and other Eastern cities.

The result of the tour was what might have been expected. The men he met in Eastern Canada were a busy, contented lot of farmers, whose necessities seem to have fallen fifty per cent. in cost in the last twenty years, whilst the price obtainable for the things they produce has doubled, but the well-cultivated farms, with their red brick homesteads, and trim fields, the