

CANADA AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE

AT THE present moment the whole future of British and colonial relations centres around the question of naval defence. This is particularly the case since it begins to appear that the day may come when the British navy is no longer able to effect single-handed the defence of the entire empire. What has hitherto been mainly an academic question, deliberately excluded from the purview of the party politician because of its lack of bearing upon the material interests of the moment, is rapidly becoming the problem of the hour. A wave of self-interested apprehension, masked under the smug disguise of imperial sympathy, is turning the universal attention of the colonies towards the protection of their coasts and commerce. This is the true interpretation of the naval defence conference of last summer and of the present epidemic of neo-patriotism in the form of deep-sea editorials in the colonial press.

During the coming session of the Canadian parliament the public of the Dominion will be called upon, for the first time in many years, to consider in all seriousness the question of maritime defence and its bearing on the future of this country. The subject is a wide one. It connects itself at first hand with the still unsolved problem of our political relation to the Mother Country. The adoption of any definite national policy in regard to naval defence will present a forward movement in one direction or the other, in the political development of the Canadian people, from which a future retrogression will be increasingly difficult. Any discussion, therefore, which tends to elucidate even a part of the momentous question at issue ought to be of importance at the present juncture. The following article is not intended to