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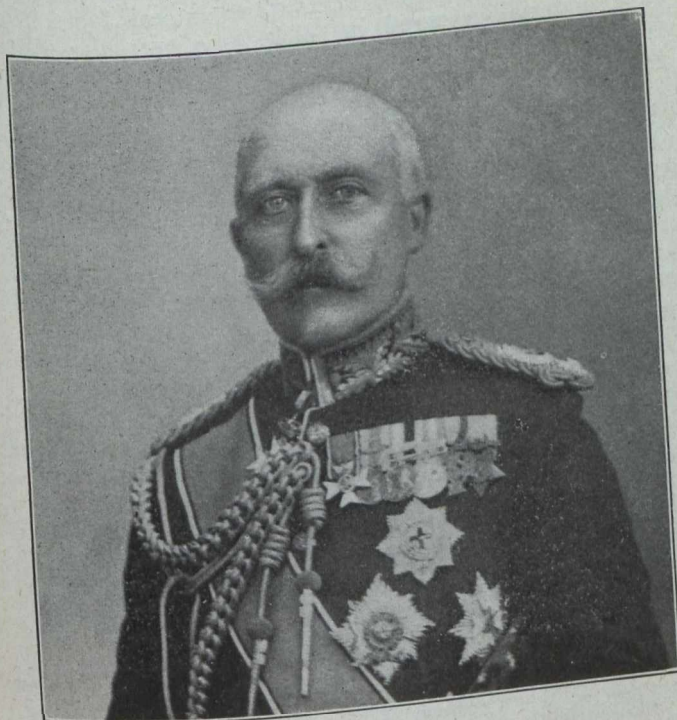
In honor, Great Britain could not stand by and witness this breach of treaty obligations and the jeopardizing of Belgian independence.

"I agree with what the right hon. leader of the Opposition has said," continued the Premier, "when he declared that we have absolutely no quarrel with the German people. They are not a warlike people. In many respects they have stood in the very forefront of the world's advancement. Many of our best citizens in Canada are of German origin. So far as the Germans and Austrians in this country are concerned, we have adopted the principle that we have no reason to believe that any of them are inspired by the militaristic tendencies which influenced the Governments of Germany and Austria-Hungary. We believe they will be true to their adopted country. They are entitled to the protection of law in Canada, and they shall receive it unless any of them desire to aid and abet the enemy or leave this country to fight for Bri-

Every detail was enabled to be worked out with precision."

Extraordinary steps which would require the ratification of Parliament had been taken by the Government on the outbreak of hostilities. "We took them," said the Premier, "because we believed that in the exercise of our duty we were bound to do so before Parliament could possibly assemble. These steps will be explained later on." Two submarines had been purchased and provided with crews so that the vessels are available "for the defence of our coast and of our shipping if occasion should require." The Rainbow had been made ready for war, and her crew supplemented by naval volunteers.

"Great praise is due to those in command of her," continued Sir Robert, "for the courageous act which they undertook in going south, in face of two modern

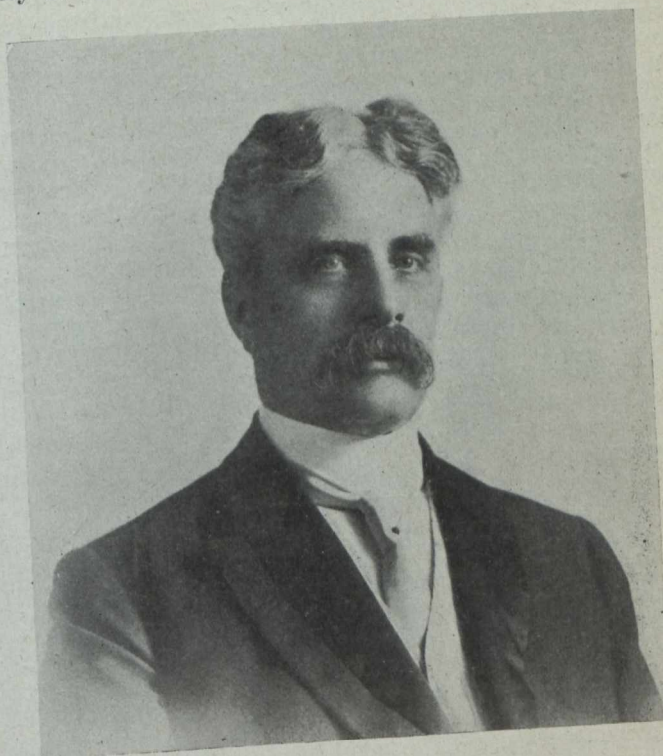


His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught
Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada

tain's foes. Up to the present we have seen no disposition among these people to do anything of the kind."

Sir Robert then put before the House some information regarding action taken during the early part of the year, on the suggestion of the British authorities, given in a memorandum from the Overseas Defence Committee to a general defence scheme for Canada. On Jan. 12, 1914, a conference of deputy heads of departments was held, under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Pope, Under Secretary of External Affairs, with Maj. Gordon Hall of the Militia Department, and R. M. Stevens, Director of Gunnery in the Naval Department, as joint Secretaries. At this and subsequent conferences a general defence scheme was drawn up and detailed plans were made for action to be taken by executive officers at Ottawa should war break out at any time.

"I cannot overestimate the great advantage which resulted to the Government from having these matters thought out in advance," Sir Robert said. "Necessary arrangements which came from time to time before the Government were made without the slightest confusion.



Sir Robert Borden
Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada, and Secretary of State for External Affairs

German cruisers, to assist in bringing back the small boats Algerine and Shearwater, which were then in the south. The Niobe has also been put in commission, as she possesses some fighting strength, and she will be manned in part by the crews of the Shearwater and Algerine and in part by British naval reservists. All of these boats have been placed under the direction of the Admiralty, under the authority contained in that behalf in the naval service act of 1910.

"In my telegrams to the British Government," said the Premier after reading a number of despatches to the House, "I spoke of the united spirit of Canada, and events have shown that I was not mistaken. The men who are going to the front from Canada are going as volunteers, free men from a free country, to serve this Dominion and this Empire. I express absolute concurrence with the view put forward by the member for South Oxford (Mr. Sutherland), that it is the duty of the people and the Government of Canada to make all suitable provision for the families of those going to the front. We are giving our best to our country, and