

which seem to commend themselves to fair and reasonable men. Let us assume: that Canada is at last prepared to bear a fair share of the burden of imperial defence, so far at least as the navy is concerned; that not a direct money contribution to the British government, but a fleet of some kind is to be the policy adopted; and that the expenditure involved is to be utilized in such a way that the service of the fleet may be rendered most effective. Then, it surely follows, that such a fleet, to be efficient in the highest sense, must satisfy the following conditions: (1) As recommended by the Admiralty it should comprise a distinct "fleet-unit" as defined in the memorandum. In the deliberate judgment of the experts whose opinion alone is worth serious consideration, this is the minimum to be attempted. And to refuse to accept the proposal is to incur a grave responsibility. Battleships of the very latest type are the pressing need of the navy at the moment; and where New Zealand and Australia with their much smaller population and resources have so nobly led the way, in the day of its prosperity Canada need not fear to follow. At all events, until it is possible to have such a fleet-unit for Canada, able to take its place in the imperial navy, if need be in the very front line of battle, it would be much better to have none at all. There is no need for any other; and the money spent otherwise, so far at least as the defence of the Empire is concerned, is practically wasted. (2) Its officers and men must be under the King's regulations in order that the general discipline may be the same throughout the whole imperial service. For (3) such a fleet, if it is to be really efficient, must form an integral part of the imperial fleet, to be counted on in emergency, of the existence of which, not the Parliament or Government of the Dominion for