

Canada's great seaports, that out of a spirit of self-help and self-respect Canadians were to take their proper share in assuming. It was this object that members of the House of Commons had in mind when later, in the spirit appealed to, they voted unanimously to approve of any necessary expenditure towards the speedy construction of a Canadian Naval Service, which was the main feature of the resolution as finally adopted.

Prior to the passing of this resolution, Canada's recognition of her obligation in the matter of defence had been limited to defence on land. The resolution extended the obligation to defence at sea, of Canadian coasts and trade routes, and the provision thereby, should the need arise, of more effective means of co-operation with the other forces of the British Navy, in the common defence of the Empire at sea.

All the outlying Dominions concerned.

But Canada, of the outlying Dominions, was not the only one to assume a larger measure of responsibility at that time. It will be remembered that one result of the discussions which took place at that time in the parliament at Westminster was an immediate response from all the self-governing Dominions to what then appeared to be an increasing need on the part of the Motherland. On the 22nd March, the Government of New Zealand telegraphed an offer to bear the cost of the immediate construction of a battleship of the latest type, and of a second of the same type, if necessary. On the 29th March, the Canadian House of Commons passed its resolution. On the 15th April, Mr. Fisher, the Prime Minister of the Australian Government, telegraphed that whereas all the British Dominions ought to share in the burden of maintaining the permanent naval supremacy of the British Empire, so far as Australia was concerned, this object would be best attained by the encouragement of naval development in that country.

In view of these circumstances, His Majesty's Government considered the time was opportune for the holding of a conference to discuss afresh the relations of the Dominions and the United Kingdom, in regard to the question of Imperial Defence, and on the 30th April sent an invitation to the Dominion Ministers of the four Dominions and to the Cape Colonies to attend a Conference to discuss the general question of the naval and military defence of the Empire with special reference to the Canadian resolution and to the proposals from New Zealand and Australia.

Canada and Australia to organize Naval Services.

The Conference was held in London in the summer of 1909. There were present representatives from Australia, New Zealand and Canada, the Canadian representatives being the Hon. Sir Frederick Borden, Minister of Militia and Defence, the Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Major General Sir Percy Lake, and Rear Admiral C. E. Kingsmill. The question of naval defence was specially discussed at meetings of the Conference held at the Foreign Office on the 3rd, 5th and 6th of August, the Earl of Crewe being in