

How Canada came to join with Australia and New Zealand.

In 1909 came the offers of the self-governing Dominions to meet what 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 a resolution approving the speedy organization of a Canadian Naval Service.** 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 the naval development in that country.

A Conference on Naval Defence held in London.

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, His Majesty's Government 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.

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 the chair.** It is important to recall that the discussion at this meeting was based on a memorandum prepared by the First Lord of the Admiralty and dated 20th July, which memorandum had been circulated previous to the conference. It was the Admiralty itself, not the representatives of the Dominions that fixed the basis of discussion, and did so before any of the ministers of the self-governing dominions had been consulted. The general discussion was followed by further discussion of arrangement and provision for naval defence between the Admiralty and the representatives of the self-governing Dominions.

The Admiralty Prepare a Memorandum, as basis of Discussion and an agreement reached as respects Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

A perusal of the Memorandum adopted by the Admiralty as a basis of discussion shows that **the Admiralty recognized from the**