

THE REAL EMERGENCY.



On January 12, 1910, in proposing an amendment to the Naval Service Act and again on December 5, 1912, in introducing the Naval Aid Bill, Mr. Borden maintained that a contribution was preferable to a permanent policy because of an emergency which threatened the existence of the British Empire. Events have proven conclusively that the real emergency was Mr. Borden's own, occasioned by his efforts to keep together the jingo-imperialists of Ontario on the one hand and the Nationalists of Quebec on the other.

The emergency contribution of \$35,000,000 was hit upon as the only basis of compromise possible between these two extremes in Mr. Borden's following. It afforded the jingoes ground for maintaining that the contribution was only a beginning and that a permanent policy, would follow and it enabled the Nationalists to say that the contribution was a means of escape from any permanent policy of Naval defence. The Real Emergency, in this sense, still continues; how long it may last is the interesting question in Canadian politics at the present time.