Canada's Responsibility In The Defence of The British Empire

The Dominion's Duty To the Mother Country and to Herself Clearly Set Forth in Dr. Daniel's Speech on the Naval Bill, the Fnll Text of Which is Here Published.

Liberal Members' Contention That Issue Is Of Insufficient Importance To Warrant Its Being Put To a Vote At The Polls Completely Shattered In Vigorous Utterance.

The Separatist Navy for Canada Will Be Useless in War, a Burden In Peace, and a Snare In Politics---Adds Nothing To Strength of Empire and Affords No Defence.

Mr. Borden's Policy Will Help To Make the Empire's Navy Effective and Will Assure The Supremacy Of The Flag --- If Our Country Is Worth Defending It Is Worth Defending Well.

The following is the official text of Dr. Daniel's great speech at Ottawa on the Naval Question:

Mr. J. W. Daniels (St. John). Mr. Speaker, the intense importance of this bill and the effect which it may have on the future history of Canada, and of the great empire of which we form a part, justify me in speaking on this question even at this late stage of the debate. Personally I feel a very deep interest in anything which has relation to naval defence. The constituency which I represent is on the Atlantic sea-board, and in the event of a naval combat between Great Britain and any country which has accumulated sea-power enough to attack her supremacy on the seas, if unfortunately the other navy should be successful, the constituency I represent would probably be the first to feel the fatal effects.

As far as I am concerned, I am deeply interested in this, not only as a citizen and a British subject, but especially as representing a constituency down by the sea. Now, Sir, I intend to make my remarks brief and as much to the point as I can, and before coming to them I feel myself bound to reply to some few observations of the honorable gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. McKenzie). In the first place, he spoke about there being no necessity for sending this very important proposal back to the people. He said that we were here elected by the people to represent them and to decide on these questions. Under ordinary circumstances I quite agree with the honorable gentleman, but what do we find in this case? This is the most important matter that we have ever had to deal with in this parliament, and the people have never had an opportunity of giving any expression of their views upon it. The honorable gentleman who has just taken his seat knows as well as any member of this House that this question has never been proposed to the people in any shape or form, and how he can intimate that such has been the case is something I do not understand. We have never had a proposal about a navy for this country until this very session, and it is the proposal that we are now discussing. How any honorable member can say that the people have had an opportunity of discussing and deciding this question is more than I can understand. He also made a reference to the fact that leading members on this side of the House have hitherto confined their wishes and desires to a navy for the purpose simply of defending our own shores. He quoted my honorable friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) as stating that my honorable friend the member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) had made a statement when the resolution was passed in 1909 which had met with his concurrence. He intimated that the statements that were then made by the honorable member for North Toronto were devoted to the advocacy of a fleet simply for local defence. I had always thought that the honorable gentleman was one who prided himself on being a gentleman who did not misquote or misrepresent the language of another. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will read what the leader of the opposition said, and I will give the quotation that he made from the speech of the honorable member for North Toronto. The leader of the opposition said:

"One of the criticisms which has been made upon the resolution is this: That parliament did not then proffer to the empire in the hour of peril anything more than an expression of a desire to co-operate and an intention to perform. Well, Sir, so far as we on this side of the House are concerned that is not our fault. My honorable friend from North Toronto said, in that debate, with my concurrence:

"Today peril stands at the gateway. It is not for me to say how great it is, but I cannot brush it aside. Today it impresses itself upon the greatest statesmen of the old country; today it appeals to Australia until public subscriptions are taken, and the government is being importuned to do even more than its settled policy to meet the emergency; today little New Zealand gives one Dreadnought and offers a second, and today Canada faces that position of peril and emergency. Let me say to my right honorable friend that if after careful consideration he proposes to this parliament a means for meeting that emergency adequately, now and as it should be, whether it be by gift of Dreadnoughts or the gift of money of this country, this side of the House will stand beside him, and stand for Canada in supporting that measure."

A Misquotation.

I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of this House, whether the honorable member for Cape Breton, in making the statement he did, quoted the honorable member for North Toronto and the leader of the opposition correctly. The honorable member also spoke to the effect that we had never been asked to assist the mother country in this emergency. That they did not come over and ask us to give them some money, that they should have sent a request for funds through the regular channels or in some other way. I would like to know in what way the honorable member would expect the statesmen of the mother country to intimate to this country that they would be glad of assistance in the emergency that is now before the whole British empire. I should imagine that a gentleman of his standing in the legal profession, one who has occupied a seat on the bench, if he wished to give a judicial statement in regard to the matter, would have studied question to some extent so as to satisfy himself that the remarks he was going to make were actually based on fact. I am sorry to make these quotations because they have all been placed on record before, but the statements of the honorable gentleman make it absolutely necessary. Lord Tweedmouth's statements have been already quoted, and I suppose that even the member for Cape Breton will allow that Lord Tweedmouth was in a position to speak for England because he was at the conference of 1907. Speaking to the representatives of the empire at one of these notable conventions, he said:

"To the representatives of the empire—

Those from Canada included.

—we ask you to take some leading part in making the national defence of the empire more complete. We thank you and recognize the free, unstinted help already given. One reservation we make, and one only, that we hold the command of the naval forces for the defence of the empire for which we are responsible. Unity of action, unity of command. W want you to give us all the assistence you can."

Is that not plain? Is that not distinct? I wonder if the honorable member for Cape Breton wants anything more than the language to which I have just alluded that the mother country would be glad of our assistance in this great emergency? We want you to give us all the assistance you can, but we do not come to you as beggars. Whether you help or not we are still to protect the King's dominions across the seas to the best of our ability.

The people of England are not beggars. They will defend themselves and they will defend this whole empire until the last shilling or the last man is used up in the fray rather than go on their knees to Canada or any other part of this empire and ask them any more plainly or openly for funds than they have already done. Then there is Lord Rosebery. He also made some remarks, I think at the press conference, and I quote the following:

"We can and will build Dreadnoughts or whatever the newest type of ship may be as long as we have a shilling to spend on them or a man to put into them. All that we can and will do, but I am not sure that even that will be enough, and I think it may be your duty to take back to our young dominions across the seas this message and this impression: that some personal duty and responsibility for national defence rests on every man and citizen of the Empire.

"When I see one country alone asking for 25 millions of extra taxation for warlike preparations; when I see the unprecedented sacrifices which are asked from us on the same grounds, I do begin to feel uneasy as to the outcome of it all, and to wonder where it will stop. Gentlemen, we can and we will build Dreadnoughts, or whatever the newest type of ship may be as long as we have a shilling to spend on them or a man to put into them. All that we can and will do, but I am not sure that even that will be enough, and I think it may be your duty to take back to your young dominions across the seas this message and this impression: that some personal duty and responsibility for national defence rests on every man and citizen of the Empire. Yes, gentlemen, take that message back with you. Tell your people —if they can believe it—the deplorable way in which Europe it relapsing into militarism and the pressure that is put upon this little England, to defend itself, its liberties—and yours! But take this message also back with you—that the old country is right at heart; that there is no failing or weakness in her; and that she rejoices in renewing her youth in her giant dominions beyond the seas. For her own salvation she must look to herself, and that failing she must look to you."

Surely in view of these two quotations from eminent statesmen holding responsible positions in Great Britain surely the position of the hon. member (Mr. McKenzie) is untenable when he says there is no need for a contribution from Canada or any other part of the Empire to aid the mother land in this emergency. The hon. gentleman tells us he does not believe there is an emergency, but the answer is that there is none so blind as those who do not wish to see. He reminds me of that story in sacred writ where some Hebrews from a certain part of Judea came to the Saviour and stated that they wanted a sign; the Master told them they had Moses and the prophets, and if they would not here them, they would not believe even though one rose from the dead. I take is that no matter what evidence is submitted to my hon. friend he would not believe even though one rose from the dead. The hon. gentleman has referred to the fact that the British North America Act places the control of the naval and military forces in His Majesty, and I would point out that if the British North America Act is in force, then clause 18 of the Bill is of no effect, and it being of no effect, why insert it? The very fact that clause 18 is in the bill determines me to vote against it even though I should be in favor of some of its other features. Clause 18 says:

"In case of an emergency the Governor-in-Couuncil may place at the disposal of His Majesty for general service in the Royal Navy, the naval service or any part thereof."

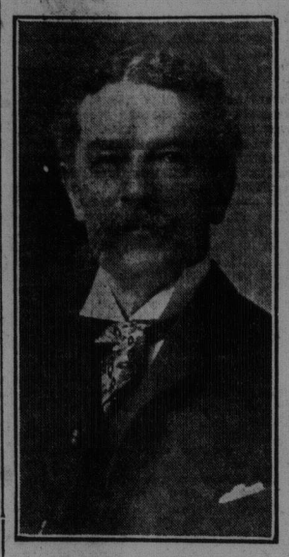
"That seems inconsistent for if under the British North America Act His Majesty has command of these forces, why should the Governor-in-Council be in a position to place them at his service or not just as they think fit. The inference is, of course, that if the Government did not wish to place the naval force at the disposal of His Majesty they need not do so. If clause 18 does not mean that, it has no effect at all, and that being so, I object to it. To my mind that clause gives the Governor-in-Council a chance to declare the independence of Canada whenever it should think that it was a fit and proper time to do so. I say, Sir, that this Parliament has no mandate from the people of Canada to go to any such length as that, and whether this bill is submitted to them for their judgment or not, they certainly must have a final say on such a momentous question. Such a radical change as that in the constitution of the country, this Parliament, I submit, has no power to bring about without the consent of the people. That is the great reason why I shall vote against this bill. The hon. gentleman from Cape Breton admitted that the British North America Act is in force, and as that gives the command of these forces to His Majesty, what is the good of clause 18 of this bill at all? To my mind it gives the Governor-in-Council the power of making an act of separation for the country. If the Governor-in-Council should choose to allow this navy to take part in the wars of the Empire; if they wish the navy to be put under the command of His Majesty, then they are to call Parliament together, but if they think that the navy under no circumstances should be placed under the command of His Majesty, then Paliament is not even called together. Parliament is to have no say in such a contingency; it is entirely a matter for the Governor in-Council. And, as the member for St. Anne (Mr. Doherty) said: It was not the King's navy, or the Canadian navy but the Governor-in-Council's navy. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McKenzie) stated that the members of the Opposition had changed their mind since the resolution was passed by the House last year, but I may tell him that it is because the proposals of the Government, as contained in this bill, do not carry out the terms of the resolution that we object to it. Here is what the resolution says:

"This House will cordially approve of any necessary expenditure designed to promote the organization of a Canadian naval service in co-operation with and in close relation to the Imperial navy along the line suggested by the Admiralty at the last Imperial conference, and in full sympathy with the view that the naval supremacy of Great Britain is essential to the security of commerce, the safety of the Empire and the peace of the world."

Our Responsibility.

That resolution recognizes our Imperial responsibility, and it provides that any aid we may give for Imperial purposes should not be simply a little local defense flotilla that we are going to keep under our own care and prevent from taking part, under the command of His Majesty, in the general defense of the Empire. The proposal in the bill is a complete negation of the resolution that was passed unanimously by the House last year. We have good reason indeed to vote against it, and to submit to this House such an amendment as that proposed by the leader of the Opposition, which if adopted will afford to the people of this country an opportunity of expressing their views on such a very radical change in the constitution. The hon. gentleman referred to the remarks of the hon. member from St. Anne division, Montreal (Mr. Doherty) and intimated that if this money were sent over, it would be sent with the intention that it should not be used. In my memory the hon. member for St. Anne never said anything of the kind. The remarks of that hon. gentleman evidently referred to by the hon. member for Cape Breton, are these:

"Gentlemen, to meet the imminent needs of the Empire, we put at your disposal this sum of money. Mr. Speaker, if that money is dawn under these circumstances, it will be done by men in whom this Government has implicit confidence, and upon their testimony that there is imminent need. Will anybody here impute to the Government of Great Britain the flagrant dishonesty of drawing money that is put at their disposal when there is no imminent need for it, and that she will take it only to put it in her pocket? When hon. gentlemen tell us that



DR. J. W. DANIEL, M. P.

we are throwing $25,000,000 across the Atlantic to these people, giving away as a pure gift, as the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Beland) said—that is an imputation upon British statesmen whose testimony we are willing to accept as the testimony of men who know what the truth is with regard to the question of urgency. Now Mr. Speaker, if this money is drawn, I say we have conclusive evidence on the most reliable testimony of the need of that money, if it is drawn we have given it when there was imminent necessity; and even the right hon. gentleman and his Government say that in the case of imminent necessity, of cource, we ought to give immediate assistance."

I would like to know where the hon. member for Cape Breton finds in that speech or in these words any statement that could give any one with ordinary judgment and common sense the idea that we were sending this money over with the knowledge and expectation that it was never to be used. Yet the hon. member once or twice congratulated and felicitated himself on the fact that he never misquoted other people.

The hon. gentleman also brought in the loyalty question. Now, I do not care to talk on the loyalty question. When a man is easy in his own mind with regard to his feelings of loyalty to the Empire to which he belongs, he is not ready to suspect others of disloyalty. I had the privilege the other morning of attending the annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association, at which there were present militia officers from all parts of the Dominion, and I think one of the most loyal utterances I heard on that occasion came from a colonel commanding one of the regiments in Quebec. He said that if this matter of a navy could only be left to the militia officers of the country, they would soon settle it in a way that would be agreeable to the people and provide properly for defence, or words to that effect, and he was cheered to the echo. I have no doubt at all of the thorough loyalty of the people of Quebec, and never have had, and certainly since this matter has come up, if any one had any doubt about it, that doubt must have been removed by the expressions of loyalty that we have heard on all sides from gentlemen from that province. Outside and beyond that, and appealing only to self-interest, if there are people in any one province in Canada today who more than any other should have a feeling of loyalty and reverence for the British Crown and the British power, it is the people of the province of Quebec. They hold a position unique in the whole British Empire. They have treaty rights which no subject of the Crown in any other parts of the world have; and if the power of Britain were broken and Canada separated itself from the British Empire, those rights would pass away, and be as if they never had been. So I say the people of Quebec, loyal as they are, have more business reasons for loyalty to the British Crown and for a desire to support and strengthen it, than the people of any other province in the whole Dominion of Canada. So much for the remarks of my hon. friend.

The First Emergency.

With regard to the question before the House, one of the hon. members, in discussing the ideas of the members of the opposition, endeavored to poke a little fun at us by saying that no matter how we on this side might criticise the proposals of the government, this was the first time anything practical had been offered to be done. Supposing for a moment that is true, I reply that this is the first time there has been any necessity for anything of the kind to be done. The rise of the nations of the world owning navies has been of the most recent date. The navy of the United States is only a comparatively few years old; Japan is a new nation; while Germany as a sea-power has risen into prominence only within a very few years. The Royal Navy has been patrolling our North Atlantic ocean up to within the last three or four years, when a new policy was inaugurated by Sir John Fisher, the new Lord of the Admiralty. Before that Halifax was the naval station of the North Atlantic squadron in summer and Bermuda in the winter. It was a larger and stronger fleet than the one proposed by the government in the Bill now before the House. This fleet or parts of it visited different parts of the country, including Quebec and Montreal, and it was not until that fleet was withdrawn and until Germany had been showing its determination to have immense power on the sea as it has on the land, that there has been the slightest necessity for Canada to go to any expense, large or small, for naval purposes. I think there is no doubt about that, so that in the circumstances I take it nothing has been done hitherto because there has been no necessity for anything to be done. But now all that is changed. A new naval programme has been given to the world. Germany has announced her intention, in most unmistakable terms, to dispute the supremacy of the sea and wrest that supremacy from Great Britain. That she will succeed I do not believe, for England will spend her last strength and her last man before she will allow Germany or any other nation to get the upper hand. But the war, if you call it war, is on now. It is a war of construction and must be kept up. 'The people who advocate making every endeavor to keep up with this great war of construction which is going on are not militarists and jingoes. This rapid building of new battleships and Dreadnoughts is not for the purpose of making war, and that is the only way war can be prevented, especially with such an enormously wealthy and powerful country as Germany. I came across the other day a statement made by a Chinese Minister of War some five centuries before the Christian era, and what did he say? He said:—

"To fight and conquer one hundred times is not the perfection of attainment, the supreme art being to subdue the enemy without fighting."

That is the reason why this building of Dreadnoughts as rapidly as possible is being carried on. It is in order that war may be prevented and the enemy conquered without fighting.

With regard to our connection with Great Britain in the Empire, that appears to me one of the most important subjects in connection with this debate. I take it that our interests are bound firmly wih those of Great Britain and the rest of the Empire. Britain is our best customer. The men who, cut on the great rolling prairie, are gathering in those enormous harvests, find a market for their product in the Old Country. We can say the same of the products of the east. Who are the people that buy our lumber and the other commodities we have to export? The British people take by far the largest part. So that outside of the bonds of heredity, tradition, history and affection, there are the bonds of business interests, which unite us to the Mother Country. And this vast business can only be safely carried on if protected by a navy. And for that protection we have to depend on the British Navy, or rather, I would say, if my wishes were carried out, the navy of the Empire. The supreme law, in connection with governing bodies, is the safety of the people. The safety of the people is the highest law of all, and in order that this Empire may be safe, the royal navy must be supreme. Destroy that navy and you put an end to the Empire.

Its Object.

Take this Navy Bill we are discussing what is the object of a navy? Is it for the purpose of establishing ship building plants or docks? I should say not. I quite agree that the establishment of ship building yards is important because ship building is a great industry which will give employment to a great number of people. I take it that docks are necessary, whether we have a navy or not, but the great reason for a navy is strategical. The great object of a navy is defence, so that in considering what is the best kind of navy to have, I take it that the strategical reason is the one which should come before all others. But if we want a navy for strategical purposes we must have a great Imperial navy. That is my idea of a naval force—a navy of Imperial dimensions, a navy for the defence of the whole Empire, a navy under one control. In that connection the Prime Minister of New Zealand gave expression to a sentiment which appeals to my mind as absolutely correct. He said:—

"Recognizing how important it is for the protection of the empire that the navy should be at the absolute disposal of the admiralty, Your Excellency's advisers do not desire to suggest any conditions as to the location of the ships, as they are confident that the truest interests of the people of New Zealand will be best served by having a powerful navy under the independent control of those responsible for directing it in time of peace or war. What the government does feel concerned in is, that the navy in whatever part of the world it may be, should be under one control, so that the most eeffctive results for the defence of all portions of the empire may be assured."

Those most effective results can only be obtained by one navy, one control and one flag. eW are an immense chain of countries, a chain surrounding the globe, separated—no, not separated—bound together by the sea, and immense possibilities open out before us when we consider what may be our destiny as part of this great British empire.

Away off to the south we have Australia, an island it is true, but a continent as well; some four millions of people there now, but to become many millions; with, at this moment, two transcontinental railways projected to run from the southern part of the island to the north bringing into cultivation and opening out for settlement the immense territories some of which have hardly ever—I suppose some even never—been viewed by white men. And we have stretching away across this ocean, New Zealand. It appears to me that the very dream of such an immense empire as this will become, if we are true to ourselves, is sufficient not only to fire the imagination but to warm the heart of every well-wisher of the flag that flies over us and of the country to which we belong. Such a navy, an imperial navy, should be, in so far as we are concerned, supported by all the wealth which we are able to give to that end. It will be just as important for us in the future as it is in the present for the great heart of the empire in the old country that this navy should be great. I do not look for it in my life time, but I think of the time in the years to come when Canada will be the dominant partner in this great British empire, if we are so minded as to draw closer the bonds of union and not separate them or loosen them as, I am very much afraid this present navy bill will do—and that is one reason, and a great reason why I have opposed it. I have spoken of one navy. That does mean at all, and I do not mean to convey the impression that we should not have the opportunity of building the ships for that navy, or of our part of it, in Canada. I see no reason why, when we provide the facilities in this country to build vessels of war to become part of our navy and thereby part of the great imperial navy, they should not be built here.

The Militia Act.

The same thing applies to the manning of the navy. You do not need this legislation. The old Militia Act divides the militia of this country into land forces and sea forces. Under the act the militia of Canada is divided into active and reserve militia and the active militia consists of (a) corps raised by voluntary enlistment; (b) corps raised by ballot. Included in the active militia are seamen, sailors and persons whose usual occupation is upon any steam sailing craft navigating the waters of Canada. It even makes arrangement for submarine work. That is not only under the present act, but as a matter of fact, years ago there were companies of naval militia in Canada. There was a company of naval militia in the port of St. John and not only that, but they had a training ship there bought from the royal navy the old 'Charybdis.' She was there for quite a long time, an old full-rigged sailing ship with some auxiliary steam. But she was not popular with the naval militia there and the movement finally died out. But the fact that these naval militia corps were in existence and that we had the training ships show that we had and have sufficient power to train men for the sea, to utilize training ships and all that that implies. We have had that power for years. Since I came to this house, I have noticed the vote of $10,000 for naval militia. But it was shown that part of that vote for one year was spent in paying for the trip to Paris of the then minister of Marine. That much I have been able to find out, but not how the rest of the money was expended. But there is the fact—the appropriations were made showing that we have the power to enrol and train naval militia. I say, let us stick to that. This Act gives us power to establish a naval college. Let us establish it. And let us put our trained men on the ships that we build, after we get facilities to build them, and make these ships part and parcel of the great imperial navy. Another thing is that, if we have the naval college, and ask young men to go through, take the training that that college affords, we must be able to offer them a career when they fit themselves for these positions. Such a navy would give a magnificent career to any young man passing through the naval college, because he would not only have a little navy such as the government propose to establish but he would have a career in which the whole imperial navy would open out for his ambition. And, if we have an imperial navy, there must be some voice in the making of war and controlling the policy the navy is intended to carry out. This would require an imperial council, and we may hope that this could be formed. I do not doubt that the authorities in the old country have had that under consideration. A scheme could be devised under which, if all the nations of the empire took part in making a great imperial navy, arrangements could be made by which each portion of the empire would have its say in the control of that navy. If we are to get the best and the most for our money, to offer the best and brightest career for our young men, giving a chance also to the men who would not be officers but would man the fleet and giving to every one an opportunity to become a member of that fleet, this would be the best course. It would be a navy which we could call our own; it would not be like this little local fleet that we are proposing to build, but we would have a share in this great imperial navy which even now is by far the strongest that the world has ever seen. Therefore, I think it is a matter which ought to be given every consideration.

The Fortnightly Review.

We have had a number of quotations from writers in the Fortnightly 'Review.' I wish to quote from an article in that periodical by Mr. J. L. Garvin, in a note entitled 'The Dominions and the Navy,' He says:

"It may be asked, what of Greater Britain? Canada is founding a navy of her own. A few decades hence it might begin to be a serious force in the world if the territories of the Dominion are still under the same flag—

It would look as if the significance of clause 18 of this Bill had travelled across the Atlantic, and the people over there really understood its meaning.

—if the territories of the Dominion are still under the same flag. There is lively dissension on the whole subject. Some Quebec Liberals are still against all naval expenditure. Many Conservatives denounce 'tinpot navies', and are strongly in favor of direct contributions to the imperial fleet, but there seems not the slightest chance of unanimtiy in this sense. Australia is also creating a federal navy, which will not be able for many years to throw a sensible weight into the strategical scales. With the system of direct contributions, New Zealand is not entirely satisfied. South Africa, as yet, is not moving. One conclusion is clear. What was called last spring the 'awakening of the empire' upon the naval problem has not been very effective for strictly imperial purposes. Under the systems they have decided to adopt (and it may be conceded that, in view of the present state of sentiment in Greater Britain, no other course was possible). Australia and Canada can neither save themselves nor effectually help us.

I would call the attentions of members to that statement:

"Stern experience may teach the people of the Commonwealth—

I presume that should be Commonwealths.

—the necessity of larger sacrifice and closer combination with the mother country and each other. Meanwhile this island must go forward by its own strength, and upon that the whole empire depends. Australian and Canadian squadrons can do nothing to affect the issue in the North Sea. Our efforts in the North Sea may mean all for them. That is the situation, and we must rise to it. If we have full determination to keep the sea, we can keep it. Though the price will be high we can pay it, and nothing in our history will be greater than the spectacle of this little island staking all its resources once more for naval supremacy, wearing down a more formidable rivalry than we have ever met, and holding on at all costs through peace and if need be, through war until events, for hence, perhaps, shall compel, as they will, the fighting partnership of the whole English-speaking world."

By this Bill, in addition to a naval militia, provision is made for a naval college, a permanent force and its control. Of course the important features are the permanent force and its control.

The Prime Minister, on the 15th November, speaking on this subject said that we should look on this mat-

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TO MAKE THE EMPIRE SECURE.

That the Empire is threatened there is no doubt. That the chief defence of the Empire is the central navy is equally true.

The situation, therefore, calls for the strengthening of the central navy, as proposed by the Imperial authorities.

Are the Ministers at Ottawa blind to this truth? Can it be possible that they understand the situation and are indisposed to do their duty in respect of it?

What we need is the strengthening, at once, of the outer bulwark of defence. Make that secure, make it unconquerable, and we are safe.

If the central navy were to go the Flag of the Empire would be lowered, and Canada would be speedily visited by a hostile fleet.

Confusion would ensue, a heavy indemnity would be demanded, separation would probably follow.

Can we view this possibility with equanimity? Are we ready to run the risk it imposes upon us?

We ought to do our part in the strengthening of the central navy, and, if Ottawa persists in its refusal to take action to this end, the provinces will have to step into the breach and perform the duty which the Federal power neglects.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

CANADA'S FILIAL DUTY.

In a few years the German Dreadnoughts ready for action will number thirty-three. Vessels of this character alone now count in the battle line. Britain has within the United Kingdom a food supply that will carry her for two months, or perhaps less. On the hazard of one battle, then, the fate of Britain and the Empire depends. Should that battle be decided against the Empire starvation will be the enemy's most powerful ally. Without invasion, and by merely closing the trade routes, the British Empire may be brought low. In such an event, where shall we be? Effective co-operation in the battle line from the over-sea dominions, such as Canada, co-operation of the character asked for by Britain, would help preserve the Empire. Why not give it? Britain's appeal, Canada's duty, the Empire's right unite to demand that we be prompt, liberal and effective in the giving of aid.—Toronto Mail and Empire.