

On Feb. 26 the Australian Commonwealth authorities in London issued the text of an important statement made by Senator Pearce, the Australian Minister of Defence, in which the Minister refers to the decisions arrived at during the Conference of 1909 when Canada and Australia each agreed to organize naval services of their own, and points out that the Australian agreement is the only one that has been carried out. He says that the Australian scheme for a fleet unit did not originate with the Australian government of the day, but with the British Admiralty. The Minister of defence concludes, "our policy is known and has the approval of the Admiralty. We are hopeful the three countries may yet fall into line for the purpose of promoting unity of action."

NEW ZEALAND PROTESTS AGAINST BORDEN'S PLAN OF CENTRALIZATION AND CONTRIBUTION

Hon. Col. Allen, Minister of Defence for New Zealand, gave expression to the New Zealand point of view, at a meeting of the Empire Parliamentary Association in London, March 13th, at which he said that the payment of a naval subsidy would not, in the long run, appeal to the Dominion sentiment of patriotism. A permanent policy was needed, but this could hardly be said to exist under the Canadian (i.e. Borden) or New Zealand Schemes. They needed a permanent policy and one which would endure. What they wanted was a living thing in which the Dominions would have a vital interest. It did not matter so much for the moment where Dreadnoughts were built; that could be arranged as conditions developed in the future. What did matter was that it should be realized that the Dominions would not be content with merely putting their hands into their pockets.

The Dominions must have the opportunity of doing their duty towards the personnel of the fleet and manning the Empire's ships at sea. They must be prepared to help, not only the Imperial fleet with material, but they must have an interest in the operations of the fleet itself.

Views similar to those of the Australian Minister of Defence were given expression to by Sir Joseph Ward, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand. In an address before the meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute at which Sir George Reid spoke, Sir Joseph Ward said he agreed with Sir George that "It was impossible that any self-governing Dominion would consent to return to the old system of government under central authority."

SOUTH AFRICA PROTESTS AGAINST BORDEN'S PLAN OF CENTRALIZATION AND CONTRIBUTION

The views of South Africa were clearly set forth in the House of Assembly at Cape Town on March 4th when Major Silburn moved that the government should consider the advisability of submitting without delay proposals to the House for a contribution annually by the Union of South Africa to the British Navy. General Botha the Prime Minister objected to this resolution and stated that it was impossible to bind South Africa to an annual contribution, which