

was called on November 21; no business could be done until the debate on the Address was concluded, and the Opposition kept that alive until December 3. Sir Robert's speech, in making his announcement, was of peculiar importance. He based it on a Memorandum on the naval situation which the British Admiralty had drawn up. This Memorandum:—

1. Drew attention to the extraordinary increase of the Germany navy.
2. Proved that this had not been provoked by British naval increases.
3. Explained the gravity of the new German naval law of the spring of 1912.
4. Drew attention to the manner in which this great fleet was kept massed close to the shores of Great Britain.
5. Examined the situation as it will be in 1915 and 1916.
6. Concluded as follows:—

"The Prime Minister of the Dominion, having inquired in what form any immediate aid that Canada might give would be most effective, we have no hesitation in answering, after a prolonged consideration of all the circumstances, that it is desirable that such aid should include the provision of a certain number of the largest and strongest ships of war which science can build or money supply."

Acting on this official information, Sir Robert Borden proposed that Canada build three large battle-cruisers.

"These ships," he said, "will be at the disposal of His Majesty the King for the common defence of the Empire. They will be maintained and controlled as part of the Royal Navy; and we have the assurance that if at any time in the future it should be the will of the Canadian people to establish a Canadian unit of the British Navy, these vessels can be recalled by the Canadian Government to form part of that navy, in which case, of course, they would be maintained by Canada and not by Great Britain. In that event there would necessarily be reasonable notice of such recall."

Sir Robert Borden made two things clear:—

1. This was not a permanent policy; it was the "immediate and effective assistance" of which he had spoken repeatedly.
2. It was not to constitute the beginning of a permanent policy of regular and periodical contributions. He said:—

"In presenting our proposals, it will be borne in mind that we are not undertaking or beginning a system of regular and periodical contributions."

Liberals Again Refuse Aid to the Motherland.

The Liberal party offered a prolonged and desperate resistance to the attempt of the Conservatives to respond to the request of the Admiralty for three of the largest and most powerful ships "that science