

NAVAL DEFENCE.

1887—Canada declines, at Colonial Conference held in London, to send cash contribution to the British Navy.

1897—Canada again declines, at Colonial Conference at London, to send cash contribution to the British Navy.

1902—Canada again declines, at Colonial Conference at London, to send cash contribution to the British Navy.

Canada expresses appreciation of duty of Dominion as it advances in population and wealth to make necessary outlay for the necessary preparation of self-defence.

Canada prepared to consider naval side of defence and states that on sea coast are numbers of men qualified to form a naval reserve, hopes to devise a system leading to training of these men and making their services available in time of need.

At this Conference, Canada's representatives placed on record their opinion as to what the Canadian policy should be. They did so in the following words:—

"The Canadian Ministers regret that they have been unable to assent to the suggestions made by Lord Selborne respecting a navy, and by Mr. St. John Brodrick respecting the army. The ministers desire to point out that their objections arise, not so much from the expense involved, as from a belief that the acceptance of the proposals would entail an important departure from the principle of Colonial government. Canada values highly the measure of local independence which has been granted her from time to time by the Imperial authorities, and which has been so productive of beneficial results, both as respects the material progress of the country and the strengthening of the ties that bind it to the Motherland. . . . At present, Canadian expenditures for the defence services are confined to the military side. The Canadian Government are prepared to consider the naval system of defence as well. On the sea coast of Canada there is a large number of men admirably qualified to form a naval reserve, and it is hoped that at an early date a system may be devised which will lead to the training of these men and to the making of their services available for defence in time of need."

1906—Jan. 1—The dockyard and shipping plant with government buildings at Halifax taken over by the Canadian Government.

British squadrons withdrawn from Halifax Atlantic station about this time.

Halifax and Esquimalt are both harbours of refuge, coaling stations and repair yards. They were transferred to the Canadian Government without any consideration, (Esquimalt, November 1st, 1910,) but with an agreement that they must be properly kept up in equipment and stores, so as to be available at all times for the British fleet, while British vessels at all times were to have precedence over other ships. In addition, there are large stores of the British Admiralty at Esquimalt, which are cared for by the Canadian Garrison.