

Le *World*, qui fut dans la presse canadienne-anglaise l'un des premiers apôtres de la fédération impériale, disait :

Il n'y a pas de doute que l'annonce du cadeau d'un ou deux *dreadnoughts* eût été une façon théâtrale de montrer à l'univers que les groupes britanniques sont unis pour la défense de l'empire, et que cette mesure n'eût pas été différée si l'occasion l'eût réellement exigée. Mais, après tout, un acte isolé de cette nature ne résout pas le problème de la défense impériale, pas plus qu'il n'aurait eu l'effet permanent que peut seule avoir une politique bien mûrie de coopération. ⁽¹⁾

On lisait le 31 mars dans le *Hamilton Spectator*, qui est dans la presse le Croquemitaine du torysme

« The Premier was able to show that he and his colleagues had mapped out their course as to defence at the Conference in 1902. He admitted that as to the naval part of it nothing had been actually done, although the principles adopted had not been abandoned nor the obligation lost sight of. We had been engaged in the works of peace. Events threaten to hasten our hand, and the Premier proposes in the case of the navy to consult the British naval authorities, just as the war authorities had been consulted in regard to our land forces. The course the Premier outlines will commend itself generally.

« There is no unanimity of opinion as to what particular course should be taken, while there is unanimity in demanding that something strikingly helpful should be undertaken... »

(1) « No doubt the announcement of the gift of one or two Dreadnoughts would have been a spectacular method of showing the world that the British communities stand together in defence of the Empire, and if the occasion had really rendered that step necessary it would not have been withheld. But, after all, an isolated act of this kind does not solve the problem of Imperial defence, nor would it have the permanent effect which the adoption of a well-considered policy of co-operation can alone achieve. »