introduced a Naval Aid Bill to provide $35,000,000 to pay for three battleships for the British Navy. These ships were to be returned to Canada if she ever decided to build a navy of her own. After long debate, the Bill was forced through the House of Commons in April 1913 by closure, but was thrown out by the Liberal majority in the Senate.

Meanwhile the Niobe and the Rainbow were allowed to become inactive. Recruiting (with the ships in dock) ceased, and the Navy was pretty well forgotten.

The month of August, 1914, found the Royal Canadian Navy with the following personnel:

	Officers	Naval Cadets	Ratings	TOTAL
R.C.N.	71	21	203	295
R.N.	21	-	20	41
	92	21	223	336

Not a very impressive total, but immediately after the declaration of war the men of the Naval Service swung into action to do what they could.

The chief work of the Canadian Navy in the First Great War, as in the present conflict, was in convoy duty. Every vessel that could be of use was pressed into service. The Niobe and Rainbow, which had been inactive, were made ready for the fight again. And, indeed, they acquitted themselves very well.

The Niobe, in 80,000 miles of steaming during the first two years of war, captured numerous prize vessels, and the Rainbow, in 50,000 miles of patrolling took as prized several German supply vessels.

Two submarines built for Chile were bought from a Seattle firm and slipped out of the United States past a blockade of U.S. warships, for the United States was still neutral. The submarines were inspected and paid for at sea, then put in service with the Royal Canadian Navy on the west coast.