

sums which this country was willing to spend. Then the experts advised our representatives what they thought were the best ships that could be got for that amount of money. In a few words, that is about what occurred, and I do not think our friends opposite can possibly make the people of this country believe that in this Bill they are carrying out what the admiralty asked for.

Now, I am going to take a little time to prove some of the things I have said in reference to Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Here is a communication from the Governor of New Zealand to the Secretary of State on March 22, 1909, very near the time when this House debated the resolution of last year:

Government of New Zealand offer to bear cost of immediate building and arming by the British government of one first-class battleship of the latest type. If subsequent events show it to be necessary, will also bear cost of second warship of the same type.

That is what New Zealand offered, a country with one-fifth the population of Canada, and with less than one-fifth the natural resources of Canada. This is the reply received by New Zealand:

Please hasten to assure your Prime Minister that his message has been received by me with the highest appreciation of the generous and spontaneous offer made on behalf of New Zealand. It will be at once laid before His Majesty's government.

The following is also from the Secretary of State to the Governor of New Zealand:

I am commanded by the King to inform you that His Majesty is deeply gratified by the patriotic feeling displayed by New Zealand towards mother country in their splendid offer, and to convey at once his gratitude and high appreciation for fine patriotism and generosity shown in the magnificent offer made so promptly and spontaneously.

Again from the Governor General to the Secretary of State:

Am desired by Prime Minister to convey to His Majesty the King government of New Zealand's deep sense of gratitude for gracious message and for His Majesty's generous recognition of New Zealand offer of battleship to the mother country. People of New Zealand pleased to evince in a tangible way to His Majesty the King and to help to maintain strength of empire.

There was some doubt as to whether the federal government of Australia would offer Dreadnoughts or whether it would be done by the different provinces. The Governor of New South Wales made the following offer to the Secretary of State:

If Commonwealth parliament does not adopt this course, governments of New South Wales and Victoria have agreed immediately to take the necessary steps to obtain the authority of their respective parliaments to share costs of a Dreadnought on a per capita basis.

Mr. SCHAFFNER.

The Secretary of State to the Governor of New South Wales:

His Majesty's government warmly appreciate desire of New South Wales and Victoria to contribute their share of the cost of a Dreadnought, and would gratefully welcome such an addition to the naval strength of the empire.

We were told by the Minister of Militia the other day that in time of war the fleet which Australia proposes to build is not to go automatically under the control of the British admiralty. Now, the paragraph which I propose to read, from a communication addressed by the Governor General of Australia to the Secretary of State, would set that at rest:

In time of war or emergency, or upon a declaration by the senior naval officer representing the British government, that a condition of emergency exists, all vessels of the naval force of the Commonwealth shall be placed by the Commonwealth government under the orders of Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. The method by which the vessels shall come under the orders of the senior naval officer would be by furnishing each commander of an Australian vessel with sealed orders and instructions (to) the effect that upon the declaration to him by the senior naval officer representing British government that a state of war or emergency exists, such sealed orders shall thereupon be opened and, in pursuance of their provisions, he shall thereupon immediately place himself under the orders of the senior naval officer representing British government.

So far as I can see, the fleet will certainly come automatically under the direction of the admiralty in time of war.

Now, a few words in reference to the manner in which Canada received the invitation to come over and consult with the admiralty as to the best means of defence. The following is from the Secretary of State to the Governor General:

His Majesty's government have noted with much satisfaction the resolution passed by the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada on March 29 on subject of national defence, recording its approval of the organization of a Canadian naval service in co-operation with, and in close relation to, the imperial navy, and I understand that the Dominion government proposes that its Defence Ministers should come here at an early date to confer with the imperial navy and military authorities upon technical matters arising upon that resolution.

I desire therefore to commend to you the following important suggestion, namely, that a conference of representatives of the self-governing Dominions, convened under the terms of resolution (1) of the conference of 1907, which provides for such subsidiary conference, should be held in London early in July next. The object of the conference would be to discuss the question of naval and