

we shall have no more than thirty-nine ships after the next strongest Power does get its twenty-six."

### **Impossible for Britain to Bear Burden Alone.**

"I recognize," he went on to say, "the extreme delicacy of this question affecting the problem of the world-wide defence, because, whilst the defence of the outer marches does affect us very closely, it affects even more directly the great Dominions, and, despite our willingness and the intention, which we have expressed through the First Lord, to continue to hear single-handed the whole hurden of defence of the Empire, at the same time it must be becoming clear not only to us here but to the Dominions themselves that it is impossible for the Mother Country to continue indefinitely to bear absolutely alone the hurden of the new and sensational competition which has been forced upon us. Whilst, of course, we ought not in any kind of way to attempt to bring any pressure to bear on the Dominions to do anything which they may not really wish to do, at the same time I do think it is essential that the situation as it affects the whole Empire should be clearly explained, and that if the Imperial Admiralty is asked for advice, it should tender that advice and give the advice that it thinks best in the interests of the whole Empire."

### **Defence of Empire Vital Importance.**

"For that reason I, myself, cannot join in the criticisms which have been directed against the right hon. gentleman for the nature and extent of the advice which he has given to Canada. I think he would have failed in his duty if he had refused to give that advice, or, indeed, if he had coloured that advice in order to suit local political conditions,