

The British navy, the Monroe doctrine, the wide seas to east and west and the frozen fastnesses of the north had indeed combined to justify that feeling of security.

In the early colonial days Canada had evolved a unique and efficient militia system, which has been carried on with an unbroken history from the days of the first French colonial governor in Quebec. The militia did valiant service against the Indians and against the colonies and the republic to the south in the first two centuries of our history. During the celebrated 100 years of peace the militia was continuously maintained on its historic volunteer basis, not so much for the protection of Canadian territory from attack as for the purpose of going to the assistance of Great Britain, in the event of a major war.

Canadian soldiers did heroic service in South Africa and in Europe, in support of the Empire.

But when governmental attention was sharply focused on the subject of defence in 1935 and 1936 it was discovered that a new set of conditions had developed.

Britain's navy was no longer able to guarantee that hostile forces would be unable to reach Canadian shores. Submarines dive under and airplanes fly over the great battleships that rule the surface of the sea.

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