

continue secure in the faith he should refrain from reading those papers, the one in Toronto, the other in Montreal, which, for the time being at least, cry aloud their allegiance to the Septembrist section of the Conservative party, lest he would be in danger of aiding and abetting the Liberals by way of apologizing for the insolence and irritation which they are called upon to endure.

This business of the navy can never be settled without good-will. If it is settled wrong, it will not remain settled. There was a time when good-will prevailed. On March 29th, 1909, Mr. Borden said: "In so far as my Right Honourable friend, the Prime Minister, to-day outlined the lines of naval defence of this country, I am entirely at one with them. I am entirely of opinion, in the first place, that the proper line upon which we should proceed is the line of having a Canadian naval force of our own; I entirely believe in that." And on the same day Mr. Foster said: "The first Canadian owned vessel built and equipped in Britain and sent out to defend our coast would become the nucleus and the training ground of Canadian stokers, Canadian sailors, and Canadian officers, and by and by perhaps, of a Canadian admiral on a Canadian coast. How much time would be taken in completing that circle none of us could say, but if we begin the tracing of it and follow it fairly and faithfully, the time must come when we get a complete circle and have an imperial adjunct to the British navy for the defence of Canada and the defence of the Empire in which Canada has some of her body, her bones, her blood, her mental power, and her national pride."

Accordingly the Naval Bill was passed without dissent. A beginning was made. But something happened. A cloud appeared on the horizon over Drummond-Athabaska. The government was defeated in a bye-election. Quebec was the weak spot, and the whole force of the opposition was directed against it. Derision was heaped on the "Canadian Navy." Henceforth it became the "tin-pot navy with a string to it," and when the *Niobe* met with disaster the navy