

"importance, and a great responsibility will rest upon those who disturb that compact.

"I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE DEMAND FOR DREADNOUGHTS IN THE FACE OF THE FACT THAT THE ADMIRALTY AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE DETERMINED THAT IT WAS NOT THE BEST MODE OF MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF THE EMPIRE, AND ARRANGED WITH CANADA AND AUSTRALIA (THE LATTER OF WHOM HAD OFFERED ONE OR TWO DREADNOUGHTS) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LOCAL NAVIES TO KEEP OPEN THE TRADE ROUTES IN CASE OF WAR.

"All difficulty as to the question of autonomy is now removed as it is fully recognized that *the great outlying portions of the Empire are sister nations*, and that means are adopted to secure uniformity in the naval forces of the Empire in the design and construction of the ships, and the training of the officers and men. They are also to be interchangeable and thus secure uniformity in every respect so as to act as effective units with the British navy.

"Of course the government of the day will be held accountable for carrying out the policy thus agreed upon in a thoroughly effective manner, but I cannot avoid thinking that A FEARFUL RESPONSIBILITY WILL REST UPON THOSE WHO DISTURB OR DESTROY THE COMPACT ENTERED INTO ON THIS VITALLY IMPORTANT QUESTION."

CHARLES TUPPER.

The fact that this letter was written *after* the naval scare of March 1909, adds greatly to its significance.

Ottawa, Nov. 1912.

JOHN S. EWART