

The Australian Naval Defence Act, 51 and 52 Vic., c. 32, assented to 20th December 1887, was passed to give legal effect to the terms of a provisional agreement between the imperial government and the governments of the Australian colonies, subject to parliamentary ratification. (See page 116, supra.) Under the terms of this compact, the Admiralty undertook to construct and equip a fleet of five fast cruisers, each of 2,575 tons displacement and 7,500 horse power, and two torpedo gunboats, on the most approved modern build, each 750 tons and 4,500 horse power, for the protection of the floating trade in Australian waters, and in order to secure the defence of certain ports and coaling stations. Of these vessels, three cruisers and one gunboat were to be kept continually in commission, the remainder to be held in reserve irrespective of the usual strength of Her Majesty's naval force employed at the Australian station. The Act stipulated that these sea-going ships should be furnished by the imperial government, the colonies paying 5 per cent interest annually on the prime cost, such payment not to exceed £35,000 a year; the colonies in addition bearing the actual charges of their maintenance, including retired pay to officers and pensions to men, provided that the annual cost under this head should not exceed £91,000. The ships were to be under the sole control and orders of the naval commander in chief on the Australian station, but to be retained within the limits of that station, and only otherwise employed by consent of the colonial government. The agreement was to become binding between the governments as soon as the colonial legislatures passed special appropriations for the fulfilment of its conditions. For the boundaries of the Australian station, as defined in the Act (see page 116, supra.)

The agreement was ratified in 1887 by similar Acts passed by the various Australian legislatures. It was made for a period of ten years at least and it could only be terminated then or thereafter upon two years' notice. The ninth annual contribution of £126,000 for cost and maintenance of coastal defence was allotted among the various Australian colonies, on the basis of population, as follows:

Colony.	Estimated Population on December 31, 1898.	Amount of Allotment.
		£
Victoria	1,175,490	33,083
New South Wales.....	1,346,240	37,886
Queensland.....	498,533	14,030
South Australia.....	367,934	10,355
Western Australia.....	168,150	4,732
Tasmania	177,341	4,990
New Zealand.....	743,463	20,924
Total.....	4,477,151	£126,000

Although it cannot be said that this contribution is at all what it ought to be, or such as should be expected from Canada, it showed a patriotic spirit, and set a good example to the other dependencies of the empire. I hope it will not be long before

that spirit is emulated by the Dominion, which should not any longer expect to receive the protection of the imperial navy without paying a dollar towards its maintenance, and that the recent weighty utterances of the Colonial Secretary in South Africa on this subject will be heeded by the government, the parliament and the people of Canada.

Before I resume my seat, I cannot help referring to the inroads death is yearly making in this body, and especially to the large number of good and useful men who have disappeared from this stage of life since we last met in this Chamber, and to whom the hon. leader of the opposition, has so touchingly referred. I am sorry to say I am the only senator present here to-day of the seventy-two original senators, whose names were contained in the Queen's proclamation of union, and who witnessed the inauguration of the first parliament of the united provinces of British North America in 1867. The retrospection would have a saddening effect on my mind if it were not for the bright side of the picture presented in the prosperity and inevitable future destiny of Canada, as the result of confederation. It is no small satisfaction to-day to those who were in any degree responsible for the great experiment of Canadian confederation, of whom I am one of the few remaining, that our most sanguine anticipations have been more than realized; that the Dominion to-day presents the happy picture of a loyal, contented and prosperous people, from ocean to ocean, and that the ties which bind Canada to the empire were never stronger or more highly valued than they are at the present hour.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Tuesday, March 17, 1903.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NEW SENATOR.

Hon. W. C. EDWARDS, of Rockland, Ontario, was introduced and took his seat.