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THE NATIONALIST-CONSERVATIVE ALLIANCE AND SOME OF ITS CONSEQUENCES.

What is the explanation of Mr. Borden's present proposal of an expenditure of \$35,000,000 for the three most powerful battle-ships in the world, to be owned by Canada, but to be given to the British Admiralty, as part of a permanent policy of contribution, or in addition to some other policy to be announced later? It is not to be found in any "emergency" in Britain, it is not to be found in any expressed desire of the Canadian people. It is, in fact, in open defiance of the wish of the people's representatives as given expression to in the unanimous resolution of the House of Commons of March 1909, approving of the speedy organization of a Canadian Naval Service, to which further endorsement was given in the enactment by Parliament in May 1910 of the Act respecting the Naval Service of Canada. It is a complete reversal of the hitherto accepted policy of co-operation in defence between the Mother country and the Dominion, and a deliberate attempt at abandonment of rights of self-government on which alone imperial unity with local autonomy can be maintained. It is in complete opposition to Mr. Borden's own previously expressed convictions as to what is most in the interests of Canada and the British Empire. How can so extraordinary and far reaching a change in principle and policy be explained?

The explanation lies unhappily in an alliance contracted for the sake of gaining office, as unpatriotic as it was for the time being successful, but which for a year or more paralysed the hand of the Administration it helped to bring into being.

It is and will ever remain a reproach to the Conservative Party in Canada, and though of necessity openly avowed for some time past, it is without defenders among many loyal Conservatives even to-day. If it be true that a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit, then the hybrid policy born of this unholy alliance is doomed, once the will of an enlightened electorate is given an opportunity of pronouncing upon it.

To appreciate the present situation aright, it is necessary to trace briefly the several steps by which it has been brought about. It is not necessary however, to go back earlier than the resolution of March 1909, which embodied the unanimous expression of opinion of the parliament of Canada as to the policy which, wholly irrespective of party, should be pursued by Canadian statesmen with respect to Naval defence.

How the question of Naval Defence Arose.

The Resolution of March 1909 owes its introduction to a motion by the Hon. George E. Foster which expressed the opinion that "in view of her great and varied resources, of her geographical position and national environments, and of that spirit of self-help and self-respect which alone befits a strong and growing people, Canada should no longer delay in assuming her proper share of the responsibility and financial burden incident to the suitable protection of her exposed coast line and great seaports." It was the responsibility and financial burden of the protection of Canada's coast lines, and Can-