

interfere with the Government of existing independent states or existing dominions. It would be absurd for Canadians to rely upon such a doctrine for the defence of Canadian territory. All that we could rely upon is that our powerful and friendly neighbour would if occasion arose, fulfill to the letter all obligations of neutrality, as, for example, would not permit any organization against us in her own territory, and would not permit the violation of the international boundary.

How highly we value the sympathetic attitude of so large a portion of the American press and people no words can exaggerate. That the same feeling exists in England was manifested by Earl Grey in his speech during the present week. The celebration of the hundred years of peace between the United States and the Empire afforded the occasion of many declarations of mutual friendliness which shall not soon be forgotten. But the people of Canada must be prepared to defend this portion of the Empire if the necessity should arise. We have happily been spared the immediate horrors of war, but that immunity should not lead us to forget our duty, which is rationally and calmly, but effectually, to make the defence of this country secure.

### NOMINATIONS IN ALBERTA.

CONVENTIONS for the nomination of Liberal candidates for most of the constituencies in Alberta will be held during the present month of January. A definite decision to proceed with the selection of candidates and preliminary organization was reached at a meeting of the Alberta Federal Liberal Association, held at Calgary, December 16. Liberal standard bearers to contest the seats in the next Dominion elections will therefore be chosen at conventions to be held as follows: Lethbridge, January 13; Macleod, January 14; Medicine Hat, January 20; Strathcona, January 22; West Edmonton, January 27. Conventions will also be held shortly in Bow River and Battle River.

The decision to proceed with nominations and preliminary organization was forced upon the Liberals of Alberta by the unusual activity of the Conservative organizations who have not only had their candidates in the field for some time, but who have been found to be prosecuting vigorous election work, apparently under the belief that an election was imminent. It was made clear at the meeting of the Federal Liberal association that the Liberals were prepared to adhere strictly to the truce declared at the outbreak of the War, but that the truce having been broken in several constituencies in the province, they felt bound, in self defence, to call conventions and select their candidates. It was made plain, however, that the Liberals of Alberta are still prepared to observe the truce in any constituencies in which there has been no marked Conservative election activity.

### THE CANADIAN NAVY IN THE EMERGENCY.

IN view of the very valuable work done by the Niobe and the Rainbow, of His Majesty's Canadian Navy, since they were re-fitted and recommissioned after the outbreak of war, a reference to these ships in the annual report of the Department of Naval Service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1914, is of unusual interest. It shows why these ships were not immediately available for service for which they were solely needed at the very outbreak of hostilities. The report says:

"The Government having decided not to continue H. M. C. ships Niobe and Rainbow in full commission, no recruiting for the Canadian Navy was carried on during the year and the programme of exercises and training laid down for these ships was not continued. During the year free discharge was given to those Canadians who entered the service and who wished to avail themselves of the offer of discharge. In addition, many of the ranks and ratings, brought from the Imperial service, have completed their engagements under the Canadian Government and returned to England without being replaced, with the result that at present the ships are only manned by a sufficient crew to keep them in good order and such state that should they be required for sea service at any time they could be placed in commission with as little delay as possible.

"The report by the head schoolmaster of the Niobe shows that the various ratings show a keen desire to increase their knowledge".

This report shows quite frankly why the two Canadian cruisers were not ready to take to sea when their services were so much needed at the very outbreak of the war. It was between two weeks and a month before they were ready for service, which was quite unavoidable in view of the fact that they were without the crews to man them, had been at least partly dismantled, and required considerable overhauling and repairing. Details of the work necessary and of the actual time when they were ready to take to sea have been denied to the public, owing mainly to the censorship.

That the Niobe could not take to sea before September 1 was admitted by Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of the Naval Service, during the special session of Parliament in August. He explained that the Niobe was being manned by British naval reserves living in Canada and by men taken from the British Sloops-of-war Shearwater and Algerine, which were in southern Pacific waters at the outbreak of war and which were convoyed to British Columbia by the Rainbow.

Since they were got into commission for active service, the Rainbow and the Niobe have done invaluable work. Details of their activities have not been made public, but it is well known that they have contributed largely to the efficient patrol of the waters contiguous to the Canadian coast in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. On the Atlantic the Niobe has co-operated with British cruisers, while in the Pacific, the Rainbow has had the co-operation of Japanese warships in the patrol which undoubtedly averted the danger of a raid by German cruisers which were at large in the Pacific for some weeks after the outbreak of hostilities.