

" considerations. If Canada and the other Dominions of the Empire
" are to take their part as nations of this Empire in the defense of the
" Empire as a whole, shall it be that we, contributing to that defense
" of the whole Empire, shall have absolutely, as citizens of this
" country, no voice whatever in the Councils of the Empire? I do
" not think that such would be a tolerable condition. I do not
" believe the people of Canada would for one moment submit to
" such a condition."

The really vital issues, which underlie the questions of Imperial Naval and Military organizations and Canadian contributions for the maintenance of those organizations, go to the very roots of our political life. They are not to be settled even temporarily, it seems to me, by consultations between representatives of the Canadian Government and the Admiralty or the War Department at London, whose technical advice and experience may, under appropriate conditions, be of exceeding great value. They are not to be settled by expert officials of the naval and military services, who by education and training may be incapacitated for these high political duties. The appointees of Mr. Churchill to the Admiralty Board cannot be permitted to determine those paramount issues which involve the political destiny of the over-seas Dominions. Those issues can only be settled by prolonged deliberations between the Government of Great Britain and the Governments of the Dominions,—deliberations which can only result successfully, it seems to me, if they open the way for these Dominions to achieve their highest political destiny as self-governing units in a self-governing Empire—if they open the way to Canadians, while domiciled in Canada, to acquire and to assume all the duties and responsibilities and to exercise all the rights and privileges that appertain to British citizenship.