

Canadian section approved February 10, 1909 after express reference by Canadian Order in Council to the circumstance that **the principle of local control by responsible Ministers concerned over officers of local section has been fully safeguarded.**

July & August—Subsidiary Conference (of Imperial Conference) of representatives of self-governing Dominions on the naval and military defence of the Empire convened in London. Canada represented by Sir E. W. Borden, Minister of Militia and Defence, Honourable L. P. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Major-General P. H. N. Lake and Rear Admiral G. E. Kingston.

At this Conference on the Military side a plan was arranged of so organizing the forces of the Crown, that, to quote Premier Asquith's words (House of Commons, Aug. 26, 1909), "while preserving the complete autonomy of each Dominion, should the Dominions desire to assist in the defence of the Empire in a real emergency their forces could be rapidly combined into one homogeneous Imperial army."

General concurrence was expressed in the proposition "that each part of the Empire is willing to make its preparations on such lines as will enable it should it so desire to take its share in the general defence of the Empire."

Mr. Haldane, Minister of War, in laying the proposals before the Colonial representatives, said, "the representatives of the over sea Dominions cannot at the Conference pledge their governments, or undertake in any way to bind the officers and men composing over sea Dominion forces to engagements beyond the shores and boundaries of their own countries"—and that "whatever is done must be done spontaneously and with due regard to the circumstances in which each one of them is situated."

*See also reference to this Conference under heading "Naval Defence."