

empowered to contract on such terms as he saw fit with the Admiralty for the complete arming and equipment in the United Kingdom of a ship of war, the total cost of the ship and armament not to exceed £2,000,000 and the ship to form part of the Royal Navy. The New Zealand Statute sets forth that the ship when completed is to form part of the Royal Navy and serve under the control of the Lords of the Admiralty but not, as is Mr. Borden's proposal with reference to the Canadian ships "to range itself in the battle line of the Empire," its sphere of action is definitely limited to the "defence of your Majesty's Dominions", the British Admiralty having arranged for other ships in connection with the China Pacific unit to be stationed in New Zealand waters. The New Zealand government has since permitted the original agreement to be temporarily waived as respects the Dreadnought contributed by New Zealand being kept as the flag ship of the China Pacific fleet the understanding being, however, that equivalent protection will be given by Britain at her expense to New Zealand coasts, and other ships kept in New Zealand waters.

Mr. Borden's Proposals Involve Breach of Arrangement with Australia and New Zealand.

Canada alone of the three mentioned overseas Dominions appears to have failed to keep the arrangement reached with the British Admiralty on the basis of an understanding which included all three. A beginning in the carrying out of this agreement was made by the Laurier administration in the enactment of the Naval Service Act of 1910, and progress was made under this measure in the organization of a Canadian Naval Service. **Had the Borden Ministry on assuming office continued the work of its predecessor, Canada would in all probability be today in the same position as Australia,** and would have been saved the reproach contained in the Admiralty Memorandum which declares in paragraph 9 that "any action on the part of Canada" would be regarded as "most significant of the renewed resolve" of the overseas Dominions to take their part in maintaining the integrity of the Empire.

Nothing having been done since the Borden Ministry assumed office in October 1911 in the carrying out of the agreement reached at the London Conference in 1909, it is little wonder that the British Admiralty has drawn attention to the necessity of some evidence of a renewed resolve, and also that **exception is now being taken by Australia to Canada's neglect in carrying out her part of the agreement** which was to have been undertaken in common with other of the self-governing Dominions. The Canadian Associated Press, in a cable despatch London Feb. 26th 1913 which has been published in the leading Canadian papers of the day following says that the Commonwealth authorities in London issued on that morning the text of an important statement made recently by **Senator Pearce, the Australian Minister of Defence,** on the question of imperial naval defence in which Hon. Mr. Pearce explained that the Australian Government attaches no importance to its being represented on the Imperial Defence Committee, because it is of a purely advisory character while Australia is concerned in questions