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Epreuve illisible

COLOURED PAPER  
PAPIER DE COULEUR

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From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS  
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

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LONDON,

our shores in large numbers. Risks have to be run all the time in naval war and sometimes grievous forfeit is exacted. The "Courageous" was attended by four Destroyers but two had to go to hunt a U-Boat attacking a merchant ship towards evening when the "Courageous" turned into the wind at the dusk in order to enable her own aircraft to alight upon her landing deck she happened by what may have been a hundred to one chance or more to meet a U-Boat in her unpredictable course. That is the great problem for us to find destroyers for our many needs - many needs which I cannot mention to the House which make great demands upon us. This hard stroke of war in no way diminished our confidence in the methods now at our disposal. On the contrary our confidence in them has grown with every day they have been employed and I believe that their potency will become more apparent in proportion as the great numbers of new vessels come into action and in proportion as our hunting officers get the knack of using depth charges by frequent practise. Therefore I cannot feel at the end of the first three weeks of the naval war that the judgment formed by the Admiralty before the war which I myself, after having been afforded full opportunity of seeing it at work, endorsed as a Private Member, was at fault or stands in any need of revision except perhaps in a favourable sense. In the first week our losses by U-Boat sinkings amounted to 65,000 tons; in the second week they were 46,000 tons; and in the third week they were 21,000 tons. In the last six days we have