

too busy, and, in the second place, they desire to learn thoroughly the lessons of this war before they reach conclusions that they would commend to the oversea governments. The development of submarine warfare during the past three years has been so important and so serious as to cause the authorities of the Admiralty to reconsider more or less the whole position. But we do believe that after the war is over it will be necessary for the United Kingdom and the Dominions to take up this question in coöperation and with a view to concerted action. For that purpose the Admiralty will prepare, with the least possible delay after the war is over, a scheme by which we can act together for this great common purpose.

I do not need, I hope, in the presence of hon. gentlemen in this House, to emphasize the importance and necessity of this. It is obvious that if the communications of this Empire on the ocean are cut the Empire cannot hold together. That is apparent and clear to all. It is a matter of congratulation to us that although there is a serious menace in the submarine campaign which Germany has carried on, this has been met with at least some success up to the present, and I hope it will be met with still more success in the future. Outside of the submarine campaign we all rejoice that the ocean was swept practically clear of the German flag within a few months after war broke out. That is a great achievement. It means as much for us as it does for the people of the United Kingdom. What enables our producers, what has enabled them during the past three years, to send their products at greatly increased prices across the ocean for the sustenance and comfort of the people of the United Kingdom and for the purpose of carrying on this war? It is the organized power of the British Empire in the Navy—that, and that alone. What is it that keeps Quebec, Montreal, Halifax, St. John, Victoria and Vancouver from being raided by enemy cruisers, from seeing women and children murdered in their streets by German shells and from all the horrors and barbarities that even some of the towns in the United Kingdom have suffered? I say again that it is the organized power of the Empire in our Navy. Therefore, it is a matter of concern to us, as to the United Kingdom, that the naval power of this Empire shall be kept up and increased in such measure that the ocean paths shall not be closed to us whether in peace or in war.

The next resolution to which I would invite your attention relates to the care of soldiers' graves, a most sacred duty devolving upon the people of the Empire. The resolution which was passed in regard to that is as follows: