

nearly the entire naval forces of the Empire. Not only the Atlantic and the Pacific, but even the vital highway of the Mediterranean were left practically unguarded. Our three ships were to form part of a great imperial flying squadron, of unequalled power and mobility and so stationed that it could dominate the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, and be within reasonable call of our coasts on the Pacific. The Government proposals passed the Commons by a large majority. The leader of the Opposition, through his appointed partizans in the Senate, defeated them, and in so doing took a responsibility from which any loyal and patriotic citizen of Canada and of the Empire might well have shrunk.

Let me invite your attention to the following significant passage in the admiralty memorandum:—

"The aid which Canada could give at the present time is not to be measured only in ships or money. Any action on the part of Canada to increase the power and mobility of the imperial navy and thus widen the margin of our common safety would be recognized everywhere as a most significant witness to the united strength of the Empire, and to the renewed resolve of the overseas dominions to take their part in maintaining its integrity."

The proposals which we laid before parliament were so recognized and they produced a profound impression throughout the world as indicating that for purposes of defence and the maintenance of the Empire's integrity the mother country and