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"And here is the great opportunity, the great chance of the self-governing dominions, those strong young nations which have grown up all over the world, under the shelter of the British Flag and by the stimulus and protection of British institutions. And they have already begun to seize it. Already we have seen the development in Australia of a strong modern fleet unit. New Zealand has contributed a noble ship to the general services of the British Navy.

"And in Canada men of all parties and of both races are deeply stirred upon the problem and of the share which the great Dominion should take in the means by which it and all the other parts of the British Empire are kept from harm. And we are soon to receive, I understand, representatives of the new Canadian Administration, who will come over here to consult with the Government and the Admiralty upon the course of policy which should be adopted in the future.

"If the main development of the past ten years has been the concentration of the British fleet in decisive theatres, it seems to me, and, I dare say to you, not unlikely that the main naval development of the next ten years will be the growth of the effective naval forces in the great Dominions overseas. Then we shall be able to make what I think will be found to be the true division of labour between the Mother Country and her daughter states—that we should maintain a sea-supremacy against all-comers at the decisive point, and that they should guard and patrol all the rest of the British Empire.

"I am certainly not going to attempt to forecast or to prescribe the exact form which these developments should take. But the march of opinion appears to be proceeding along thoroughly practicable lines.

"This, however, I will venture to say. The Admiralty see no reason why arrangement should not be made to give the Dominions a full measure of control over the movements in peace of any naval forces which, with our help, they may bring into efficient existence. We know that in war our Countrymen over the seas will have only one wish, and that will be to encounter the enemy wherever the need and the danger is most severe. The important thing is that the gap shall be filled so that while we, in the Old Country, guard the decisive theatre, our comrades and brothers across the seas shall keep the flag flying on the oceans of the world.

"That is the principle which I have come here to-night to expound, and if the observations which I have ventured to make should contribute in any way to its furtherance, should contribute in any way to the achievement of such a result, then I think we shall be found to have done more to-night for the British Empire and the British Navy than merely respond to the toast which Sir William White has so happily proposed."

A Comparison with the Liberal Policy.

Could any policy be wiser under these circumstances than that suggested by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his reply to Mr. Borden? Referring to the Admiralty Memorandum Sir Wilfrid said:—

"This document shows that there is no emergency, that England is in no danger, whether imminent or prospective. But the document discloses a condition of things, of which, indeed, we knew, but upon