

The Australian and New Zealand Methods of Naval Defence Compared with Policies Proposed in Canada.

The policy of the Conservative party is one of contribution. The policy of the Liberal party is the organization of a Canadian Naval Service, in accordance with the unanimous resolution of the House of Commons on March 29th, 1909. The Conservative contribution begins with an immediate expenditure of \$35,000,000 for ships to be placed at the disposition of the British Admiralty, to be manned and maintained by Britain, and placed beyond the control of the Canadian parliament and government. The Liberal proposal is to have this money spent on the organization of a Canadian Naval Service, which will be for the protection of Canadian coasts and trade routes, and available should the need arise for co-operation with the other British Naval forces in the defence of any part of the British Empire.

In the controversy which has arisen, much has been said of **Australia and New Zealand**, and an effort has been made to make it appear that those outlying Dominions are doing more for the British Empire than Canada, that they are more "loyal," have a keener appreciation of national obligations. It is asked if "little New Zealand" can present the Mother Country with a dreadnought, ought not Canada at least to be able to present two or three? The latest form in which this appeal is made is to link up the Malay States, with New Zealand, and compare these two British possessions with the Dominion of Canada.

Fortunately for Canada, it is not difficult to get at the facts, and more fortunately still, they afford an opportunity of contrasting the relative merits of the policies of the two parties in Canada at the present time. **The Conservative policy of contribution is similar to the policy of New Zealand and the Malay States, the Liberal policy of a Canadian Naval Service is the same as the policy of Australia.** Canadians have therefore to choose whether the largest and most important of His Majesty's Dominions shall adopt a method of naval organization agreed to at an Imperial Defence Conference in London, in 1909 in common with Australia, or the method of contribution followed by New Zealand and the Malay States.

Australia abandoned contribution for Naval Service of her own.

Australia has tried both policies herself. She began with a policy of contribution to the British Navy, and found that it was not acceptable, and from many points of view unsatisfactory to Britain as well as herself. She abandoned it and entered upon the policy of an Australian Naval Service which is her present policy. Canadians have therefore to choose whether, with the example of Australia before them, they will enter upon a policy which the next largest Dominion has found it desirable to abandon, or begin with a policy similar to that which experience there has