

It soon became clearly apparent that the compromise, negotiated by the leaders of the two political parties in the House of Commons, was not received with unanimity by the people of Canada.

In the meantime, public alarm was quieted somewhat by a pronouncement of Sir William H. White, late Director of Naval Construction, in the Nineteenth Century for April, 1909, in which he referred to the "exaggerated statements, and hysterical enquiry" which had been made in some quarters, and ridiculed "the estimates of politicians, innocent of technical knowledge, like the Prime Minister, Mr. Balfour, the First Lord, and many others.

Nevertheless, an Imperial Press Conference was convened in London early in June, at which were assembled representatives of the Press from every portion of the self-governing Dominions, to whom the leaders of political opinion in Great Britain made most eloquent appeals that the Colonies should co-operate in providing for the defense of the whole Empire.

"Take this message back with you," said Lord Rosebery to the representatives of the Imperial Press, "that the Old Country is right at heart; that there is no failing or weakness in her; and that she rejoices in renewing her youth in her giant Dominions beyond the Seas. For her own salvation she must look to herself, and that failing her, she must look to you."

Sir Edward Grey declared that:—"The one essential thing is that we should keep the high-road of the sea open, and that is the great Imperial strategic problem which now confronts us. The navy is the common security of the whole Empire. If it ever fails to be that, it will be of no use for us to discuss other subjects."

"Local defense," declared Mr. Balfour, "must be subordinate to Imperial defense. The individual parts of the Empire never can be saved, never can be powerful, never can be strong, if their defense is only local."

### **Imperial Defense Conference**

In the meantime the Imperial Government, in May, made unexpected preparations for calling the representatives of the colonies to London to take part in an Imperial Defense Conference, which met in July, and in which the Canadian Government consented,