

The Device of an "Emergency" again employed to reconcile Nationalist Conservative Differences.

It is clear that with men entertaining views such as this sitting side by side in a Cabinet with other men holding diametrically opposite opinions, and pledged to do nothing without an appeal in the first instance to the people, a prime minister who feels insecure in office, and wishes above all else to avoid an election, has no bed of roses and no easy path ahead. **Here is the real emergency.** On the one hand, pledged not to adopt a permanent policy in the matter of Naval defence before submitting it to the people, on the other, unable to retain the support of his jingoist colleagues without doing something, what is Mr. Borden, whose desire is office at all costs, to do? **Nationalists and jingoes have both to be satisfied, or one or other of these elements in Mr. Borden's Cabinet will separate from him and a fatal dismemberment of the Administration take place.** Fall back on the idea of an "emergency" confronting British Naval supremacy is his one and only recourse and this he has done in the hope that, by adopting a course which will permit of a continuance of the Conservative-Nationalist alliance, he may be enabled to ret. in a sufficient Nationalist following to hold power a little longer without the necessity of appealing to the people.

Mr. Borden's visit to England to help himself rather than Britain out of an emergency.

That this is Mr. Borden's object is abundantly apparent from his attitude while in England during the summer of 1912 and the question he put to the British Admiralty. **Mr. Borden did not go to England to consult the government on the best course of policy for Canada to pursue. He did not go even to ask if there were an emergency. He went to find a means of raising an emergency cry to serve his own party ends, and to meet the emergency in his own Cabinet.**

According to the words of the Admiralty Memorandum which Mr. Borden presented to parliament his inquiry was not; is there an emergency? Do you want an emergency contribution? but, "in what form any immediate aid that Canada might give would be most effective" or to quote his own words in the House of Commons on December 5th, 1912 "in what form temporary and immediate aid can best be given by Canada." **Mr. Borden returned, not with any expressed opinion of the Admiralty or the British government to the effect that immediate aid was necessary, or that an emergency of any kind existed, but with the same purpose he had in mind when he left for England, namely, a determination to make it appear that his visit to England had disclosed the need for an emergency contribution which would be granted on behalf of Canada without an appeal to the people.**

Mr. Borden had first of all to get his Cabinet to consent to this somewhat doubtful course. But here he encountered opposition at once. Having been told all the premier knew, the **Hon. F. D. Monk, the Minister of Public Works** was unable to see any necessity for the course he proposed, and tendered his resignation rather than be a party to it. He did so in the following words,