

THE NAVY AND POLITICS

THE present moment seems opportune for considering the new Canadian naval proposal, not so much in relation to other proposals, which may be worse or better, as in relation to the general political environment. It is the end of the recess and the parliamentary cataract has not again begun to roar. On these quiet pages a place may be found for calm contemplation of a subject about which many good men are perplexed. On previous occasions matters of like importance were so considered. When either Conservatives or Liberals failed in their appeals to the people the circumstances and causes were set forth in the most modern, academic fashion.

Canada's naval policy has been of continuous concern to this MAGAZINE, and the spirit in which it has always been approached is well indicated by one writer in the words: "The man who votes for this or that solution of the navy question merely because he is a Liberal, or because he is a Conservative, or because he is neither, is false to his citizenship." Any one who is desirous of informing himself in a large way upon the whole question would be well repaid for his labour if he were to read again the series of articles upon British Diplomacy and Canada, upon Imperialism, and the more specific and consequent ones by Mr. C. F. Hamilton upon the naval issue itself.

Leaving out of account the views of the few ignorant persons who profess the belief that we owe nothing to England, and of the few apathetic ones who are content to dwell under the shadow of the wings of the dove of peace with an occasional glance of fear at the United States, the consensus now is that the time has come for Canada at a single stroke to perform its duty, to signify its gratitude, and to seize its privilege. The one difficulty which divides