

observe that Sir Wilfrid emphasized at St. Hyacinthe his proposed expenditure of one hundred and fifty millions upon two fleet units during the next ten years.

THE SHIP-BUILDING INDUSTRY OF CANADA TO BE DEVELOPED.

The present Government is most anxious for the encouragement and development of the ship-building industry in Canada. When, however, the Opposition contend that this industry can best be assisted and stimulated by undertaking the construction of battleships of twenty-five or thirty thousand tons, costing from twelve to fifteen million dollars each, there are some considerations to be taken into account. The plant necessary for the construction of such battleships, including armament, machinery, armour plate, etc., would cost about seventy-five million dollars and would only be useful in case Canada proposes to embark upon the tremendous programme of building every year at least two of these great engines of destruction. Any such programme would be at once unnecessary, absurd and oppressive. **Ship-building in Canada, as elsewhere, must start from small beginnings and be developed in a businesslike way.** We had arranged with the Admiralty that they would place in this country orders for smaller craft such as could be built in Canada without any such enormous and excessive initial expenditure in plant and machinery, and undoubtedly this proposal would have had splendid results.

OUR SHIPS PART OF A MIGHTY FLYING SQUADRON.

The admiralty memorandum had exposed a grave necessity for concentrating in the immediate vicinity of the British Islands