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- 34 Pages of Women's and Children's Coats, Suits, Dresses, etc.
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THE ROBERT SIMPSON COMPANY
LIMITED
TORONTO

That Alleged Debt

Two arguments are advanced in support of the contention that Canada should aid in still further increasing the strength of the British Navy:

(1) That increased naval power is essential to the defence of Canada and her maritime interests;

(2) That the British Isles themselves are menaced and that Canada, in return for British protection in the past, should assist in defending the United Kingdom against impending danger.

These two lines of argument are mutually destructive. If Canada is to create naval armaments for the defence of British coasts it is clear that these armaments cannot be used at the same time for the protection of Canada's own coasts and the defence of Canada's shipping on the seven seas.

If each argument is taken singly it will be found impossible to maintain it.

The contention that Canada requires a naval armament for the defence either of her territory or her maritime interests is upset by facts with which all intelligent readers are familiar. All the fleet that Norway possesses could be blown out of the water by a single British Dreadnought, and yet Norway has double the tonnage in mercantile shipping that Canada possesses and Norwegian shipping is all on the high seas while the bulk of ours is on inland lakes. Belgium has a larger seaborne commerce than Canada, and Belgium is absolutely without naval force of any kind. Still one never hears of the vessels of Belgium or Norway being interfered with at sea or in foreign ports. There was need of naval defence for commercial shipping when piracy flourished, but the last pirate was hanged from the yard arm before the yard arm itself disappeared with the advent of steam. Nor, if war should unhappily come, is there any possibility of Canadian territory being subject to serious danger

save as a result of attack by the United States? The lesson of the Boer war, in which the whole power of the British Empire was required for the conquest of a few hundred thousand Boers, shows that neither Germany or Japan alone, or these two powers combined, could transport a sufficient force across the ocean for the conquest of 7,000,000 Canadians.

The facts just stated are so generally recognized that the advocates of navy building by Canada lay the chief stress on the alleged danger to Britain and the alleged obligation resting on Canadians because of British defence of Canada in the days of Canada's infancy. Even the argument based on the obligations said to rest on Canada will not hold with those possessed of a fairly long memory and with a reasonable knowledge of Canadian history. Canada has suffered from but one serious war since the country became a British possession and that was in 1812-15. That war, although Canada was the chief sufferer from it, was not

brought about as the result of any action by this country. It resulted from insistence upon the right of commanders of British ships of war to search American warships for deserters and from interference with American commerce. Canada has been threatened with war on two occasions since 1815—in the 'sixties and the 'nineties, but in neither case was Canada the cause. War was brought within sight in the 'sixties partly as a result of the seizure by an American warship of Southern envoys while on an English merchant ship, but the main cause of the break in friendly relations was the active sympathy of the ruling classes in England with the slave owners of the South during the civil war. The threatened rupture of the 'nineties occurred over a dispute in Venezuela, a dispute in which Canada had no concern whatever; but that incident marked an almost immediate doubling of our expenditure on militia, then running about

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and engine. Engine
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engine to separate
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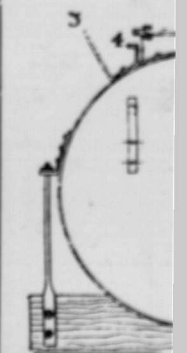
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