

in our own country. We are deprived of the larger benefit ourselves, and in the future we do no greater service to the Empire of which we form a part in this matter of defence."

OBJECTION NO. 11.—It ignores the necessities and aspirations and prospects of the Canadian people.

MR. FOSTER.—"I think this method ignores the necessities and the aspirations and the prospects of a great people, such as the Canadian people are destined to become. We must have beginnings. This must at first be small, but sometime or other our country will have its naval force for the defence of this country, if for nothing else. The point with me is as to whether it is not the greater wisdom to sow the seed at once and cultivate its growth as best we can in our circumstances, and with our resources until at last we arrive at that stage of expansion which we have reached in other great lines of our country's progress."

Having set forth these objections to a policy of contribution Mr. Foster said: "My own mind tends rather towards the employment of another form than that of an out and out money contribution." That other form he then described as "the assuming by ourselves of the defence of our own ports and coasts in constant and free co-operation with the Imperial forces of the Mother Country." Mr. Foster then examined the possible objections that might be raised to a Canadian Naval Service, and concluded by giving his reasons in support of it.

II—ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS TO A CANADIAN NAVAL SERVICE

OBJECTION NO. 1.—That a beginning has to be made without plant, expert skill, trained cadets or trained sailors.

MR. FOSTER (in answer to objection).—"Under that system our first vessels would be British built, British equipped, British manned, British officered from stoker to captain . . . But the first Canadian-owned vessel built and equipped in Britain and sent out to defend our coasts would become the nucleus and the training ground of Canadian stokers, Canadian sailors, and Canadian officers, and by and by, perhaps, of a Canadian admiral on the Canadian coast. . . . The time must come when we have an Imperial adjunct to the British navy . . . in which Canada has some of her body, her bones, her blood and her mental power, her national pride. Then would come the dockyard, which would be of sufficient strength to enable us to repair the small vessels and in time build the smaller class of vessels that we need at first . . . and so in that progressive, gradual way we are working up to the fulfilment of this idea of defensive force in Canada, which would