

"respect, which alone befits a strong and growing people, Canada should no longer delay in assuming her proper share of the responsibility and financial burden incident to the suitable protection of her exposed coast line and great seaports." Mr. Foster, in his speech supporting this resolution, objected to a fixed annual contribution in money; and he was followed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Leader of the Government, who declared that the Government stood by its refusal, at the Imperial Conference of 1902, to contribute to the support of the British army or navy.

While this discussion was in progress, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister, and Mr. R. L. Borden, Leader of the Opposition, by private personal discussion, doubtless with a view to creating unanimity of sentiment in Canada, came to an agreement to accept the following resolution, which was adopted by the Canadian House of Commons without division:—

"This House fully recognizes the duty of the people of Canada, as they increase in numbers and wealth, to assume in larger measure the responsibilities in national defense.

The House is of opinion that, under the present constitutional relations between the Mother Country and the self-governing Dominions, the payment of regular and periodical contributions to the Imperial treasury, for naval and military purposes, would not, so far as Canada is concerned, be the most satisfactory solution of the question of defense.

The House will cordially approve of any necessary expenditure designed to promote the speedy organization of a Canadian naval service, in co-operation with and in close relation to the Imperial navy, along the lines suggested by the Admiralty at the last Imperial Conference, and in full sympathy with the view that the naval supremacy of Britain is essential to the security of commerce, the safety of the Empire and the peace of the world.

The House expresses its firm conviction that, whenever the need arises, the Canadian people will be found ready and willing to make any sacrifice that is required to give to the Imperial authorities the most loyal and hearty co-operation in every movement for the maintenance of the integrity and honour of the Empire."

I wish to direct special attention to the declaration, contained in the second clause of this resolution, that, under the present constitutional relations between the Mother Country and the self-governing Dominions, the payment of regular and periodical contributions to the Imperial treasury for naval and military purposes would not, so far as Canada is concerned, be the most satisfactory solution of the question of defence; and to the alternative declaration in favour of the speedy organization of a Canadian naval service in close co-operation with and in close relation to the Imperial navy.