

Australia in 1909 proceeded with the creation of a fleet unit as suggested by the Admiralty, and New Zealand went ahead with the construction of the Dreadnought which visited Vancouver and Victoria a few weeks ago. The Liberal Government delayed, and not till February, 1911, did it call for tenders for a divided force, which would have been a weakness to the country if it had ever come into being. The tenders were opened on May 1st, 1911, but the contracts were still unawarded when the Government met defeat at the polls in September, 1911. It retired from office leaving the Niobe in the Halifax drydock as a result of an ill-advised jaunt to a picnic, and the unmanned Rainbow anchored to a pier at Esquimaux. The condition of these two obsolete ships was alone sufficient to bring the Liberal naval policy into ridicule and contempt. Had the Liberal Party acted in accord with the Labor Premier of Australia a Canadian Dreadnought could have been on the Pacific Coast to welcome the New Zealand battleship. From first to last the Liberal Government blocked and delayed the movement for joint Imperial defence and contrived that Canada alone of all the self-governing British nations should do nothing for its own defence or the defence of the Empire at sea.

OPPOSITION ATTEMPT TO COMMIT CANADIANS TO IMMEDIATE EXPENDITURE OF \$150,000,000.

Defeated at the polls and confronted by the Conservative Government's prompt proposal for effective naval defence, the Liberal Opposition tried to outbid its victorious opponents by committing the party to the creation of two fleet units, one for each coast, to be wholly built and manned in Canada. **The ships alone would cost \$67,000,000 and the yards in which they would have to be built another \$73,000,000.** In this way the Opposition would plunge the Canadian electors into an expenditure of \$140,000,000, more than one-half of which would be locked up in huge land plants that would have to be "scrapped" unless we were prepared to go on building additional war ships every year. To man these ships 7,000 Canadians would have to be taken from far more remunerative occupations and the