

increasing the effective naval forces of the Empire (b) under the direction of the Governor-in-Council, in the construction and equipment of battleships or armored cruisers of the most modern and powerful type (c) the ships when constructed and equipped to be placed by the Governor-in-Council at the disposal of His Majesty for the common defence of the Empire," the whole (d) "subject to such terms, conditions and arrangement as may be agreed upon between the Governor-in-Council and His Majesty's Government."

In his speech when introducing this Bill, Mr. Borden indicated one of the terms of the arrangement which would be made. He said: "We have the assurance that if at any time in the future it should be the will of the Canadian people to establish a Canadian unit of the British Navy these vessels can be recalled by the Canadian Government to form part of that navy."

It would not be possible within the time limit for this address to refer in detail to the reasons given by the Prime Minister in support of this measure. They may be summed up in the short statement that Great Britain needed the aid and support of Canada before it might be too late to give it, and that such aid and support could now best be given in the way pointed out by the Admiralty, and that years would have to elapse, with greatly increased expenditure, before Canada could give the aid and support by a navy of her own, and that during the construction of the ships in Great Britain with the money granted the permanent solution of the question of our part in naval defence would be sought for and submitted to our people for approval or disapproval.

The position of the opposition was crystallized into a resolution offered by their leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and from this resolution the real issue between the parties can be gathered.

During the debate a number of imaginary issues were set up, and time was wasted in discussing them. For instance, it was stoutly asserted that this special contribution was but the beginning of the regular and periodical contributions which the unanimous resolution had declared would not be a satisfactory solution of the question, and much time was consumed in debating this, notwithstanding that in presenting the Government proposals Mr. Borden expressly stated: "We are not undertaking or beginning a system of regular and periodical contributions. I agree with the resolution of this House in 1909, that the payment of such contributions would not be the most satisfactory solution of the question of defence." Because