

veto upon all proposals, Mr. Monk, the French-Canadian leader of the Conservative party, was to ally himself with the Nationalists of Quebec, become their parliamentary leader, and oppose anything being done until the people were first consulted by plebiscite or otherwise. Mr. Borden, as leader of the party for the Dominion, was to hold to opposition to any permanent policy until the people were consulted, but in order to retain the support of the jingo element was to raise the cry of an "emergency" and demand an immediate contribution of "money" or "dreadnoughts"! This, it was believed, to those who desired some recognition of Canada's obligations, would serve as an evidence of Canadian loyalty, and of Canada's desire to assist the Mother land, while to those who had little or no liking for the recognition of any permanent obligation, the emergency contribution could be pointed to as a means of getting rid of this obligation, and incurring no future liability. How this combination was worked out is familiar to all who followed the debate.

Mr. Borden and Mr. Monk Work Together While Appearing to Oppose Each Other.

On January 12th, Sir Wilfrid brought down the government's measure, an Act to provide for a Canadian Naval service. Mr. Borden took up the role he had been assigned. He pictured the "emergency" in words as graphic as language could command. Having quoted Mr. Foster's remarks of the previous year to the effect that "peril stands today at the gateway" he asked, "Has the peril passed?" and replied, "No, Sir, we are nearer to it by nearly a year. Has Germany's policy been modified in the meantime? No, on the contrary, Germany has put forward the greatest Naval Budget in her history."

Mr. Borden went on, "It is idle to assure us that there will be no war. The war has already begun, the war of construction, the victory will be as decisive there as in actual battle. Does the dissolution of the Empire egg nothing to Canada and her people?"

"When the British Empire goes the British North America Act goes also and with it there departs every constitutional guarantee which it contains. All beyond is chaos and darkness....."

"I say to my Rt. Hon. friend the Prime Minister, so far as my words have any weight with him: Go on with your naval service. Proceed cautiously and surely..... Lay your proposals before the people and give them if necessary opportunity to be heard, but do not forget that we are confronted with an emergency which may rend the Empire asunder before the proposed service is worthy of the name. In the face of such a situation immediate, vigorous, earnest action is necessary. We have no Dreadnought ready: we have no fleet unit at hand. But we have the resources, and I trust the patriotism, to provide a fleet unit, or at least a Dreadnought, without one moment's unnecessary delay. Or, and in my opinion this would be the better course, we can place the equivalent in cash at the disposal of the admiralty to be used for naval defence under such conditions as we may prescribe."

(Hansard, House of Commons Debates, Jan. 12, 1910, pp. 1815, 1816, 1817 and 1818.)