

THE NAVAL QUESTION

Budget has, in the past thirty years, increased from about £80,000,000 to nearly £200,000,000, and that the taxpayers of the United Kingdom are paying £73,000,000 for defence in the year 1912-13, which almost equal the total British Budget of thirty years ago, and yet, if I understand Mr. Cahan correctly, he still insists that no contribution should be made by Canada towards Imperial defence unless the British Government publish to the world that an emergency exists, or until Great Britain is prepared to give Canada representation in Imperial affairs, and then only if the matter is first submitted by the Government to the people. To make a contribution upon any other terms Mr. Cahan contends is entirely incompatible with the spirit of British institutions and government, and that no government has the moral or legal right to degrade a people of its own kith and kin to the lower level of a mere tributary state. We are, therefore, to conclude that in the opinion of Mr. Cahan the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, by making voluntary contributions to the Imperial Navy without representation in Imperial affairs, have degraded their people and sunk their countries to the lower level of mere tributary states.

But, as a matter of fact, everybody thinks the more of these sister states for their patriotic action, and our pride is all the greater when we realize that the governments of both Australia and New Zealand are controlled by the Labor Party.

VICTOR E. MITCHELL.

Montreal.

From THE MONTREAL DAILY STAR, November 2nd, 1912

To the Editor of *The Montreal Star* :

SIR,—In my letter which was published in *The Star* on October 14th, I stated that the question of the representation of the Overseas Dominions in Imperial affairs hristled with difficulties which it would take a long time to solve.

The Right Honorable Herbert Samuel, M.P., Postmaster-General, in a very interesting article on Federal Government in the October number of "The Nineteenth Century," discusses this subject at great length, and points out many of the difficulties which will have to be solved before the self-governing colonies can share with Great Britain, not only the responsibilities, but the control of Imperial affairs. This can only be accomplished by the formation of some Federal authority which would, by the common consent of Great Britain and her colonies, have jurisdiction over those matters in which the whole Empire is interested, as apart from those which are of mere local or domestic interest. But, as Mr. Samuel points out:

"The creation of a central authority chosen by the whole Empire and governing its common affairs would obviously be a task surrounded by the most formidable difficulties. The most important of the common interests is defence. Defence is largely a matter of finance. Is the Federal Parliament to have powers of levying taxation in the United Kingdom and in the Dominions? If so, how are such powers to be enforced? What is to happen if one part of the Empire dissents from