

Section 5 sets forth the effect of the new German Law in producing a remarkable expansion of strength and readiness, all of which information has been before the British Parliament and the public ever since the Law was passed.

Section 6 directly disproves the existence of an emergency by pointing out, in the plainest manner, the superior strength of British ships over German in home waters as far ahead as 1915. The Memorandum says:

"It is now necessary to look forward to the situation in 1915.

IN HOME WATERS.

"In the spring of the year 1915:—

"Great Britain will have 25 'Dreadnought' battleships and 2 'Lord Nelsons.'

"Germany will have 17 'Dreadnought' battleships.

"Great Britain will have 6 battle cruisers.

"Germany will have 6 battle cruisers."

THE MEMORANDUM DISCLOSES NEED FOR FLEET UNITS.

Section 6 is divided into three parts, (one) HOME WATERS, (two) MEDITERRANEAN STATION, (three) OVERSEAS.

The part relating to the Overseas is one of the strongest of arguments for the establishment of local fleet units. It is as follows:—

"It has been necessary within the past decade to concentrate the fleet mainly in Home waters.

"In 1902, there were 160 British vessels on the overseas stations against 76 to-day."

In this connection, it may be well to consider what the Right Honourable Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, said on this subject at the time the British Government was looking forward to Mr. Borden's visit to England; many months after the Laurier administration had been defeated. The London Times of May 16 gives an account of a speech delivered by Mr. Churchill at a dinner of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights on May 15th. The Times' article is headed:—

"AN EMPIRE NAVY.

"THE COLONIES' SHARE IN IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

"MR. CHURCHILL ON THE DIVISION OF DUTIES."

The account given is verbatim, and as it refers to the approaching visit of Mr. Borden and his colleagues to England "to consult with the Government and the Admiralty upon the course of policy which should be adopted in the future" may be regarded as giving the true expression of opinion of the British Government on the best policy for Canada to adopt. It is an expression of opinion freed from all Canadian party influence. The views it expresses cannot be attributed to either Sir Wilfrid Laurier or Mr. Borden. Sir Wilfrid was out of office, and Mr. Borden had not yet decided upon any policy. It is therefore an unprejudiced expression of opinion by the First Lord of the Admiralty.