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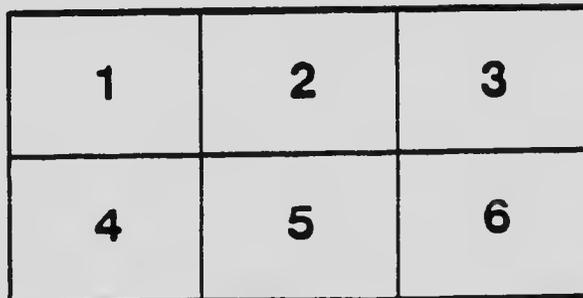
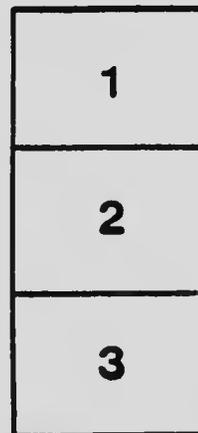
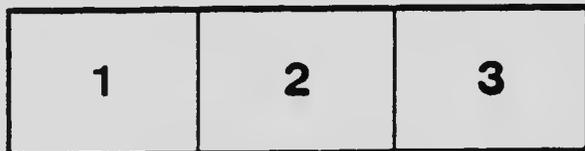
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No. II.

WHAT CANADA OWES TO THE BRITISH NAVY

BY

THE HON. SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER

Ex-Minister of Justice for Canada

Canadians owe more to the Navy than they can ever pay; and this apart from the service rendered by it to civilization throughout the world generally. A great commentator on English law wrote in 1758 (half a century before Trafalgar): "The Royal Navy of England has ever been its greatest ornament; it is its ancient and natural strength, the floating bulwark of our Island."

But for that Navy the expansion and preservation of the British Empire had been impossible. But for the Navy Canadians would not be in possession of the better part of the North American Continent and enjoying, as they do, the happiest possible system of Government. And yet the gigantic burden, ever-increasing, for the maintenance of this indispensable force and influence for good has substantially fallen on the British Islands alone.

For many years our flag has been flown on every sea. What organization can compare with the British Navy in respect to benefits conferred on mankind? We hear now much of the "Freedom of the Seas." For all this freedom (in its true sense) our Navy is responsible. Piracy was stamped out by it—the Gospel could not have been preached throughout the world but for it. Many a noble ship would have gone to its ruin but for the timely aid rendered her by ships of the Navy.

When Germany's aim was being made clear the main strength of the Navy was placed in a narrower sphere in order to save the Empire and maintain the cause of justice and right; and splendidly was this duty done. Yet so great was Britain's sea-power that, with the Grand Fleet in the North Sea, there was still left sufficient force to maintain the freedom of the seas all around the world and to guard the movement of millions of troops required for the Allied forces in France, Belgium, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Greece, Gallipoli, Egypt, West and East Africa, as well as vast quantities of food, ammunition and equipment—including in the four years of

war 20,000,000 men carried by the Mercantile Marine or Military transports; 2,000,000 horses and mules and 500,000 vehicles; 25,000,000 tons of explosives; 52,000,000 tons of oil and fuel; 130,000,000 tons of food and other materials.

Not Canada, Australia, South Africa, India and other British lands alone, but the United States of America as well, depended upon our Navy. The gratitude of our friends to the South of the boundary line was signally expressed on "Britain's Day," Saturday, Dec. 7th, 1918. No Britisher ever testified more eloquently to the valour and service of his Navy than did the foremost men in the United States on that great day. But for the Navy, indeed, who can tell how far and into what lands the campaign of German frightfulness would have been carried. At least we know that but for Britain's Navy our commerce would have been swept from the sea, and our portals on the Pacific and Atlantic would have been at the mercy of a cruel and relentless enemy.

British Naval expenses prior to 1914 reached gigantic figures which became larger and larger as the War-years rolled on, and this titanic burden fell on the Motherland. It was borne without a single request for the co-operation of any of her Dominions. This burden, carried during the war, increased to such an extent that it would have paralyzed any other Power except, possibly, the United States, and in the case of that country while it had the money, it was not otherwise prepared, and could not have coped with the gigantic necessities of the moment.

Time was, and not so long ago, when some of our countrymen in the Dominion looked askance at any proposal to strengthen this great arm of our defence, but the four years of war have left few men unconvinced as to the value of the Navy to Canada.

To our people, indeed, the freedom of the seas is absolutely essential and the Navy has so preserved our freedom of trade and export, as well as industrial and agricultural development, that Canada has been able to bear her share of the great War's burden and yet enjoy at the same time a fair amount of prosperity.

VANCOUVER, DEC. 23, 1918.

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