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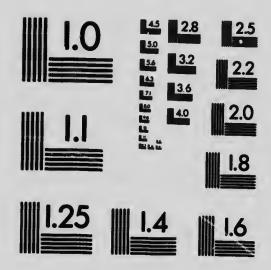
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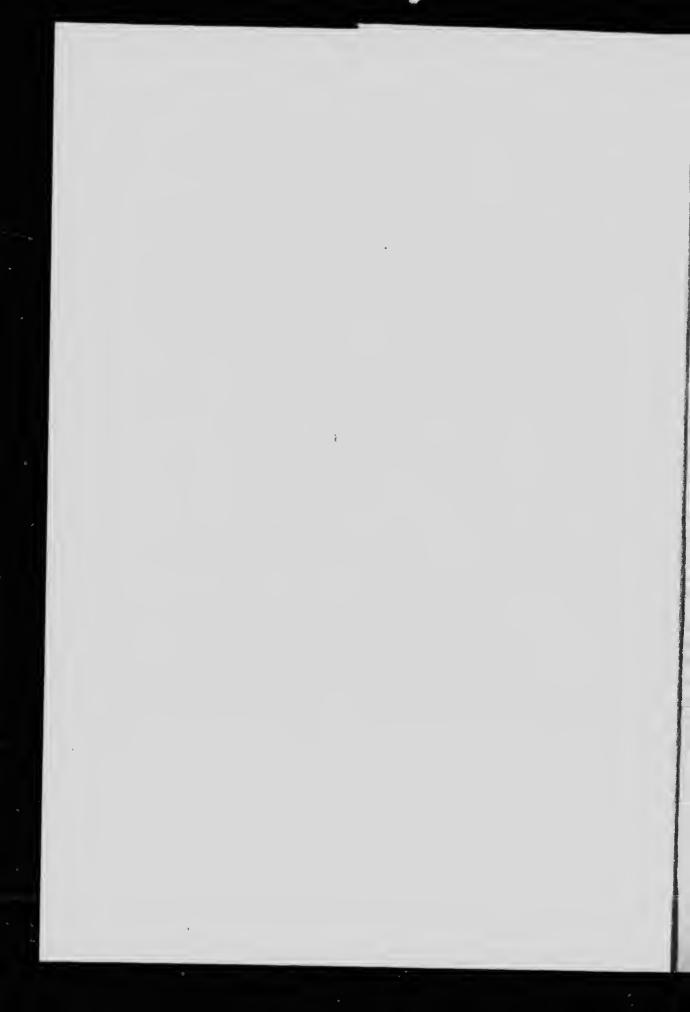
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The Canadian Mavy

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The

Canadian Navy



Y Words they darken Council in our highest place today!

Throughout its lofty chambers hear the Sounding Brasses bray!

What time the Tinkling Cymbals with an echoing quick refrain

Our patriot gifts to Britain are rehearsing once again. What are our Leaders doing now — the men we set to rule!

Think they that we, the Common Folk, are but a party's tool?

We will not tamely suffer long the trickster or the knave,—

And if the Pact be broken, shall recall the power we gave.

We wait in watchful silence, on the prairie and the farm;

Our souls have heard, and answered back Great Britain's strong alarm.

From depths of lonely forests—in the avenues of trade, In grim and breathless stillness we survey the men we made.

- Not from the mouths of Suckling Babes heard we this danger call:
- "Behold, the Foe is at the door! He mines the Seaward Wall!"
- But from the lips of Greybeards, men whose character and years,
- Whose ripened judgment well forbids all jesting at their fears;
- First in the council and in war, with measured words they show
- The mighty forces—deadly guns, the swiftly-arming foe—
- The Weapon, almed at Britain's heart, that ships alone can meet—
- Then bid us use our fullest power to strengthen England's Fleet.
- We watch a Veiled Ambition stand, puffed up with power and place,
- And give our Honour for a price—its secret pride of race.
- What do they know of Honour who can thus estime its worth—
- A Thing to sell and barter in the markets of the earth!
- This Scheme—this Skilled Suggestion—this appeal to new-born pride,
- To round our young Dominion out from ocean tide to tide—
- Obscures the fact at issue, while it bids the nation bow Before a mighty Destiny—and shirk its Duty now!

Beware! O, True Canadians! They bid ye cry "All hail!"

And raise the Golden Image, but—ye bow the knee to Baal!

Takeyenoglittering Future, with Dishonour as its base-

False to your best Traditions, to your Duty and your Race.

They offer rosy fruitage, with the canker at its heart—

No Ingrate Race shall flourish; if it wilis to stand apart

And watch the Mother meet the grim emergency alone—

It writes its own Death Sentence; it shall reap as it has sown:

Weighed in God's awful Balances-found wanting in that Day,

The soul already being dead, the body shall decay!

The "Daughters of the Horseleach" now are heard in all the land:

"Give! Give!" they cry in chorus and hold out the Questing Hand;

And One would take the Contracts and Another build the Ships.

And This would feed the Navy or would place the Harbour Slips.

They seek the Loaves and Fishes, but they miss the Vital Thing—

A nation's Truth and Honour, strong links that time doth bring-

Of Gratitude and Loyalty, and Love that puts self last

To bind a growing nation most divinely to its Past-

Formed by a thousand Hero—deeds wrought out by land and sea,

Where Englishmen have fought and died that all men might be Free.

Thus would they build a Navy up—cut off from all the things

That nerve the feeble arm to fight and give the spirit wings—

Forbid by Word of Law to go where Britain's flag is borne!

"A Navy!" Save the mark! to men a Mockery and Scorn!

What use is all our strength of life—the learning of our schools—

If we can breed us but a race of Ingrates—or of Fools?

Ingrates! because we owe our life to Britain's fostering hand-

That through the growing years has kept and guarded all our land:

To Her we owe our splendid strength, our Freedom and our Laws—

Who failed us not at hours of need, when foes would give us pause!

Why could we walk our peaceful way, or sit at home in ease?

Each English cottage bore the Tax, and Britain held the Seas!

They set the tax on .nan and beast to send the ships to sea—

They did it uncomplainingly that Britons might be free!

Now! Shall we keep the money back—when British fleets have need,

And fill our gaping coffers up to satisfy our greed?

Give aid to swell a thousand schemes to hold a Horde in fee—

Yet grudge our gold to that great Fleet that keeps our country free?

Ingrates and "Fools!" Go build your Docks, your Navy, an you will!

No man shall dare to say you "Nay!" for Britain's Mistress still!

Yet think! What use your gathered Pelf, brief G'ory, and Renown—

If in the hour of sudden strife—Great Britain's flag goes down?

Your little ships, too weak to aid—too far—for telling blow—

Your land the rich and helpless Prey of conquered Britain's foe!

And, Brothers of another Tongue, who deem our urgence vain-

How would ye bear the galling chains that bind Alsace-Lorraine?

Can we behold Great Britain's need without an answering thrill—

Or feel the Menace in the air and bid our hearts be still?

O, for a Man! to stand for us within our Council Hall,

With good red blood in heart and veins—and answer England's call!

To cut the Party questions from This Question all should feel,

And sever Truth from Falsehood with the sweep of polished steel:

Nor prate of "Finished work at Home," as though our goal were won!

(Thus should be keep our house, nor leave the wider work undone.)

No Opportunist! but a Man! to give—and Now—Today!

To meet the danger as it comes, and hold the Ocean Way!

Pour out the millions—Not a Gift—part Payment that we Owe!

Then, build the true Canadian fleet with healthy growth and slow.

Yea! build the linked navies up—in concert—One to be!

To hold that Vital Cord of Life—the Empire of the Sea!

There is no Flag in all the world save Britain's bloodred Cross

That guards pure Justice, Honour, Truth; and keeps the Weak from Loss.

That gives the Poor the Righteous Law, that lifts the Bitter Wrong,

And champions in the war of life, the Weak against the Strong!

What other Nation Keeps its Pact though all its world should fall?

What Other leaves the ease of life to follow Duty's call!

Honor and Duty! Noble Stars! by which our Race is led!

God grant their double light may shine forever overhead.

* * * *

Almighty God! Who from High Heaven doth give each Race its Day—

Thou hast the nations in Thy Hand, to bound their power and sway!

At Thy Command they rise from dust—Thine Arm doth lift them higher.

Thou move'st the Golden Candlesticks, and lo! their Lights expire!

Give Thou this Nation grace to see its Duty and its Way—

To read "the Writing on the Wall" while yet it is its Day.

M. H. B.

