

The deliberations were conducted in secret, but the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom summarised the main conclusions arrived at in a statement to the British House of Commons on August 26 as follows : ¹

Conclusions of
subsidiary
conference.

That without impairing the complete control of the Government of each Dominion over the military forces raised within it, the forces should be standardised, the formation of units, the arrangements for transport, the patterns of weapons, etc., being as far as possible assimilated to those which have recently been worked out for the British army ; so that should the Dominions desire to assist in the defence of the Empire in a real emergency their forces could be rapidly combined into one homogeneous Imperial army.

That the naval squadrons maintained in far eastern waters should be remodelled on the basis of establishing a Pacific Fleet to consist of three units in the East Indies, Australia and China seas, each comprising with some variations a large armoured cruiser of the Indomitable type, three second class cruisers of the Bristol type, six destroyers of the River class and three submarines of C class.

As regards Australia and New Zealand, their offers of warships were accepted with the substitution of cruisers of the Indomitable type for battleships, the two ships to be maintained one on the China and one on the Australian station. General statements were agreed to for further consideration by their respective governments, the suggested arrangement being that with some temporary assistance from Imperial funds the Commonwealth of Australia should provide and maintain the Australian unit of the Pacific Fleet and that the contribution of New Zealand should be applied towards the maintenance of the China unit, the New Zealand armoured cruiser to be stationed in China waters.

As regards Canada, it was recognised that while on naval strategical considerations a fleet unit on the Pacific might in the future form an acceptable system of naval defence Canada's double seaboard rendered the provision of such a fleet unit unsuitable for the present. Two alternative plans, based upon annual expenditures respectively of \$3,000,000 and \$2,000,000, were considered, the former contemplating the provision of four cruisers of the Bristol class, one cruiser of the Boadicea class and six destroyers of the improved River class, the Boadicea and destroyers to be placed on the Atlantic side and the Bristol cruisers to be divided between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Agreement was arrived at with regard to various details, including the loan by the Admiralty of cruisers for the training of officers and men and the reception at Osborne and Dartmouth of Canadian cadets.

The conclusions of the Conference were duly considered by the Dominion Government, and on January 12 1910, during the session of 1909-10, Sir Wilfrid Laurier introduced into the House of Commons a Bill to provide for the creation of a naval service for Canada. This Bill is now under consideration by the Dominion Parliament.

Naval Service
Bill.

Strathcona
Trust for the
encourage-
ment of physi-
cal and mili-
tary training
in public
schools.

On March 13 Lord Strathcona addressed a letter to the Minister of Militia and Defence in which he offered to give a sum of money sufficient to provide an annual fund of \$10,000 for the encouragement of physical and military training in the public schools of the Dominion of Canada. This patriotic offer was cordially accepted, and upon its being communicated to the House of Commons on March 24 a vote of thanks to Lord Strathcona was unanimously adopted on the motion of the Prime Minister, seconded by the leader of the Opposition.

¹See also Sessional Paper No. 29a, 1910.