

by 118 votes to 78 votes. On May 4 the measure became law in the form of an act of 54 sections. Its object is to give effect to the resolution unanimously adopted by the House of Commons on March 29 1909 and to the decisions arrived at as the result of the subsidiary conference on imperial defence held in London July 28 to August 19 1909.¹

In general principle the act follows closely the lines of the Militia act, with this difference that naval service is to be voluntary, whereas under the military law all males between 18 and 60 are liable to military service. It provides for the establishment of a Naval Service Department under the Minister for the time being of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, for the transfer from the Department of Marine and Fisheries of the Wireless Telegraph, Fisheries Protection, Hydrographic and Tidal Survey branches and for the organisation and maintenance of Canadian naval forces. The command in chief of these naval forces is declared to continue in and to be vested in the King and will be exercised and administered by His Majesty or by the Governor General as his representative. Provision is also made for the appointment of a deputy minister of the Naval Service, a director of the Naval Service and a Naval Board to advise the Minister on naval affairs. A Naval Reserve, a Naval Volunteer Force and a Naval College of Canada are also to be established and maintained under the act.

By section 22 the Governor in Council is empowered to place the naval forces on active service at any time when it appears advisable so to do by reason of an emergency, the terms "active service" and "emergency" being defined by the act to mean in the one case "service or duty during an emergency" and in the other "war, invasion or insurrection, real or apprehended". By section 23 the Governor in Council, in case of an emergency, may place the naval service of Canada, or any part thereof, at the disposal of His Majesty for general service in the Royal Navy and by section 24 whenever action of this kind is taken Parliament, if not sitting, must be called together within fifteen days.

By section 48 the Naval Discipline act 1866 of the Imperial Parliament and acts passed in amendment thereof, also the King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, are made applicable to the naval service of Canada and are to have the same force in law as if they formed part of the Canadian act.

Other questions relating to administration, the engagement of officers and seamen, naval establishments, shipyards, supplies, target practice, discipline, etc., are dealt with in the act, but much is left to be settled by regulations which the Governor in Council is empowered to make for carrying out the act and for the organisation, training, discipline, efficiency, administration and good government generally of the naval

¹ See Year Book of 1909, pp. xviii-xx.