

NAVAL POLICY OF CANADA.

Certain Colonies named in Schedule D (The Bahamas, Bermuda, British Honduras, Grenada, Jamaica, and Newfoundland) are to enjoy the benefits of the concessions granted by Canada under the agreement for a period of three years at the end of which period the concessions may cease as respects any of such Colonies which shall not have granted to Canada the advantages set forth in section 1 of the agreement.

On the part of Canada effect was given to the agreement by the West Indian Trade Agreement Act, 1913, and under section 7 the Act was brought into force on June 2, 1913, by proclamation of the Governor in Council dated May 19, 1913, and published in the Canada Gazette of May 24, 1913. By similar proclamation of May 22, 1913, the Colony of Grenada was admitted to the advantages of the Act from the date of publication of the proclamation in the Canada Gazette, viz., May 24, 1913. On the part of the West Indian Colonies concerned effect has been given to the agreement by local Ordinances. These have been reprinted as a parliamentary paper by the Imperial Government under date of June, 1913 [Cd. 6,674].

Naval Policy of Canada.—Following the establishment of a Naval Service Department in 1910 it had been proposed to proceed with the construction of four vessels of the improved Bristol class and six torpedo boat destroyers of the improved River class. Tenders for their construction were received in May, 1911, but were not acted upon up to the change of Government after the general election of September 21, 1911. Subsequently the arrangements made towards this end were abandoned for reasons stated, and after the close of the parliamentary session of 1911-12, the Premier (the Right Hon. R. L. Borden) and three of his colleagues (the Hon. J. D. Hazen, the Hon. C. J. Doherty and the Hon. L. P. Pelletier) proceeded to England to confer with the British Government and Admiralty upon the whole question of naval defence and the conditions confronting the British Empire. During his visit, which lasted from July 4 to August 30, Mr. Borden addressed numerous public gatherings at which he laid down the principle that the Dominions of the British Empire sharing in its defence must also share in the responsibility for and control of foreign policy, a principle which was accepted on all occasions in Great Britain and which received the endorsement of both the British Government and Opposition.

In the ensuing session of the Dominion Parliament, on December 5, 1912, Mr. Borden introduced a Bill to "authorize measures for increasing the naval forces of the Empire." Briefly stated, the proposals outlined by Mr. Borden were for the appropriation of a sum not exceeding \$35,000,000 to be devoted to the immediate construction and equipment in the United Kingdom of three battle-ships or armoured cruisers of the most modern and powerful type. It was proposed that these ships, when completed, should bear historic Canadian names, that they should be placed at the King's disposal for the common defence of the Empire and that they should be maintained and controlled as part of the Royal Navy, subject to their recall to Canada upon reasonable notice should the Dominion in future desire to establish a Canadian unit of the British Navy.