

PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

By their construction in the United Kingdom instead of Canada it was estimated that not only would the ships be completed at an earlier date, but also a saving in cost of about \$12,000,000 would be effected. With a view however to develop Canadian shipbuilding it was understood that the British Admiralty would give orders for the construction in Canada of small cruisers, oil tank vessels and auxiliary craft of various kinds. It was also proposed that Canadians should have opportunities of serving as officers in the new warships.

In the course of his speech on this occasion Mr. Borden submitted a memorandum of the British Admiralty, despatched on October 25, the concluding paragraph of which was as follows:

The Prime Minister of the Dominion having inquired in what form any immediate aid that Canada might give would be most effective, we have no hesitation in answering after a prolonged consideration of all the circumstances that it is desirable that such aid should include the provision of a certain number of the largest and strongest ships of war which science can build or money supply.

Associated with the proposals of the Dominion Government is an arrangement for the representation of Canada upon the British Committee of Imperial Defence. The Premier announced that the British Government, pending a final solution of the question of the voice and influence of the Overseas Dominions, would welcome the presence in London of a Canadian Minister during the whole or a portion of each year, such Minister to be regularly summoned to the meetings of the Committee and to be consulted with upon important steps in foreign policy.

To the resolution embodying the principle of the Government Bill, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Leader of the Opposition, moved on December 12 an amendment which set forth in part (a) that Canada without further delay should enter actively upon a permanent policy of naval defence; (b) that aid to imperial naval defence should employ a permanent policy of participation by ships owned, manned and maintained by Canada and contemplating construction as soon as possible in Canada; (c) that the addition under the Naval Service Act, 1910, of two fleet units to be stationed on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Canada, respectively, rather than by a contribution of money or ships, is the policy best calculated to afford relief to the United Kingdom in respect to the burden of imperial naval defence. The Opposition also moved a sub-amendment to the resolution as proposed to be amended by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. That sub-amendment was in the following words: "And the consent of Parliament should not be given to this resolution until it has been submitted to and received the approval of the electors."

The naval proposals were debated in the House of Commons at great length, and on April 23, 1913, the rules of the House were amended. The motion for the third reading of the Bill was passed on May 15, 1913, by 101 votes to 68. In the Senate, on May 29, 1913, the following amendment to the motion for second reading was carried by 51 votes against 27: "This House is not justified in giving its assent to the Bill until it is submitted to the judgment of the country." The Bill consequently failed of enactment.