

The House will cordially approve of any necessary expenditure designed to promote the speedy organization of a Canadian naval service in co-operation with and in close relation to the imperial navy, along the lines suggested by the Admiralty at the last Imperial Conference, and in full sympathy with the view that the naval supremacy of Britain is essential to the security of commerce, the safety of the Empire and the peace of the world.

The House expresses its firm conviction that whenever the need arises the Canadian people will be found ready and willing to make any sacrifice that is required to give to the imperial authorities the most loyal and hearty co-operation in every movement for the maintenance of the integrity and honour of the Empire.

Meanwhile, on March 22, the Government of New Zealand cabled to the Home Government an offer to bear the cost of the immediate construction of a battleship of the latest type and, if subsequent events showed it to be necessary, of a second warship of the same type. On April 15 the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia made a series of proposals respecting naval defence in a telegraphic memorandum, and on June 4 a new government of the Commonwealth telegraphed an offer to the Empire of an Australian Dreadnought, or such other addition to its naval strength as might be determined after consultation.

Arising out of the resolution of the Canadian House of Commons and of the proposals also made by Australia and New Zealand a subsidiary conference was convened under the terms of the resolution of the Imperial Conference of 1907¹ for the purpose of discussing the general question of the naval and military defence of the Empire. This conference was held in London from July 28 to August 19 under the presidency at the first meeting of the Right Hon. Henry Asquith, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and at subsequent meetings under the chairmanship of the Earl of Crewe, K.G., Secretary of State for the Colonies. The other members of the Conference present were the Hon. Sir F. W. Borden, K.C.M.G., Minister of Militia and Defence, the Hon. L. P. Brodeur, K.C., Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Canada); the Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, Prime Minister (Newfoundland); Col. the Hon. J. F. G. Foxton, C.M.G., Minister without portfolio (Australia); the Right Hon. Sir J. G. Ward, K.C.M.G., Prime Minister and Minister of Defence (New Zealand); the Right Hon. J. X. Merriman, Prime Minister (Cape Colony); Col. the Hon. E. M. Greene, K.C., Minister for Railways and Harbours (Natal); the Hon. J. C. Smuts, Colonial Secretary (Transvaal); the Hon. A. Fischer, Prime Minister, Gen. the Hon. J. B. M. Hertzog, Attorney-General (Orange River Colony). There were also present during the proceedings the members of the Home Government responsible for different branches of naval and military administration, officials, and naval and military officers, both British and colonial, the Canadian officers including Major-General Sir P. H. N. Lake, K.C.M.G., C.B., and Rear-Admiral C. E. Kingsmill.

Action by
New Zealand
and Australia

Subsidiary
conference
on imperial
defence.

¹ See the Canada Year Book, 1907, p. xxii.