

1903.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(Brought in by the Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton)

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT

To approve of an Agreement relating to the Naval Force on the Australian Station entered into by the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom and the Governments of the Commonwealth and of New Zealand and to appropriate moneys for the purposes of that Agreement.

WHEREAS the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom, and the Governments of the Commonwealth and of New Zealand, have entered into the Agreement set out in the Schedule of this Act subject, so far as it affects the Commonwealth, to the approval of the Parliament :

Preamble.

And whereas it is desirable to approve of the said Agreement and to make a special appropriation of moneys for the purposes thereof :

Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows :—

- Short title. 1. This Act may be cited as the *Naval Agreement Act 1903*.
- Ratification of Agreement. 2. The Agreement set out in the Schedule is hereby ratified 5
and approved.
- Special appropriation to defray share of cost of Naval Force. 3. There shall be issued and paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund in each year during which the Agreement remains in force such sum as is necessary to pay the amount which the Commonwealth is liable to pay to the Imperial Government in each year 10
under the Agreement, and the Consolidated Revenue Fund is hereby appropriated accordingly for that purpose.

SCHEDULE.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, AND THE COLONY OF NEW ZEALAND.

The Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., and the Governments of the Commonwealth of Australia and of New Zealand, having recognised the importance of sea power in the control which it gives over sea communications, the necessity of a single navy under one authority, by which alone concerted action can be assured, and the advantages which will be derived from developing the sea power of Australia and New Zealand, have resolved to conclude for this purpose an Agreement as follows :—

ARTICLE I.

The Naval Force on the Australian Station shall consist of not less than the undermentioned sea-going ships of war, all of which shall be from time to time throughout the terms of this Agreement of modern type, except those used as drill ships :—

- 1 Armoured Cruiser, 1st Class ;
- 2 2nd-Class Cruisers ;
- 4 3rd-Class Cruisers ;
- 4 Sloops ;
- And of a Royal Naval Reserve consisting of 25 Officers and 700 seamen and stokers.

ARTICLE II.

The base of this force shall be the ports of Australia and New Zealand, and their sphere of operations shall be the waters of the Australia, China, and East Indies Stations, as defined in the attached Schedules, where the Admiralty believe they can most

most effectively act against hostile vessels which threaten the trade or interests of Australia and New Zealand. No change in this arrangement shall be made without the consent of the Governments of the Commonwealth and of New Zealand; and nothing in the Agreement shall be taken to mean that the Naval Force herein named shall be the only force used in Australasian waters should the necessity arise for a larger force.

ARTICLE III.

This force shall be under the control and orders of the Naval Commander-in-Chief for the time being appointed to command His Majesty's ships and vessels on the Australian Station.

ARTICLE IV.

Of the ships referred to in Article I., one shall be kept in reserve and three shall be only partly manned and shall be used as Drill Ships for training the Royal Naval Reserve, the remainder shall be kept in commission fully manned.

ARTICLE V.

The three vessels used as Drill Ships and one other vessel shall be manned by Australians and New Zealanders as far as procurable, paid at special rates, and enrolled in proportion to the relative population of the Commonwealth and New Zealand. If a sufficient proportion of men from either colony should not on the aforesaid basis be forthcoming, a sufficient number of men to complete the complements of the ships may be enrolled from the other colony.

They shall be officered by Officers of the Royal Navy, supplemented by Officers of the Royal Naval Reserve.

ARTICLE VI.

In order to insure that the Naval Service shall include Officers born in Australia and New Zealand, who will be able to rise to the highest posts in the Royal Navy, the undermentioned nominations for Naval Cadetships will be given annually:—

Commonwealth of Australia...	8
New Zealand	2

ARTICLE VII.

The branches of the Royal Naval Reserve established in Australia and New Zealand shall be called into actual service by His Majesty in Council, acting on the advice of his Governments of the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand respectively.

The men forming the Royal Naval Reserve shall be divided into two classes:—

- (a) Those who have served for three years on board one of H.M. ships.
- (b) Those who have not so served.

These men shall be trained on ships specially provided for the purpose.

The Officers of this reserved force shall be included on the list of Officers of the Royal Naval Reserve.

ARTICLE VIII.

In consideration of the service afore-mentioned the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand shall pay the Imperial Government five-twelfths and one-twelfth respectively of the total annual cost of maintaining the Naval Force on the Australian Station, provided that the total amount so paid shall in no case exceed £200,000 and £40,000 respectively in any one year. In reckoning the total annual cost a sum equal to 5 per cent. on the prime cost of the ships of which the Naval Force of the Station is composed shall be included.

ARTICLE IX.

The Imperial Government recognise the advantages to be derived from making Australasia a base for coal and supplies for the squadrons in Eastern waters.

ARTICLE X.

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1. This Agreement shall be considered to become actually binding between the Imperial Government and the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand so soon as the Colonial Legislatures shall have passed special appropriations for the terms hereinafter mentioned, to which Acts this Agreement shall be attached as a First Schedule.

2. The Agreement shall be for a period of ten years, and only terminate if and provided notice has been given two years previously, viz., at the end of the eighth year, or at the end of any subsequent year, and then two years after such date.

ARTICLE XI.

1. The payments named in Article VIII. shall be considered as payments in advance, and shall first become due and payable six months after the Colonial Legislature shall have passed the special appropriation referred to in Article X.

2. The period of ten years referred to in Article X. is to be calculated from the date on which the Colonial Legislature passes the special appropriation referred to.

3. The payments under the existing Agreement and that Agreement itself shall terminate on the date on which the payments under the new Agreement commence.

4. The share of these payments due from each colony shall be paid annually in London by the High Commissioner of the Commonwealth and the Agent-General of New Zealand, and, pending the appointment of the first-named officer, by such person as the Government of the Commonwealth may nominate, to such account as the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may direct.

ARTICLE XII.

In time of peace one of the Drill Ships referred to in Article IV. and one other Cruiser shall be stationed in the waters of New Zealand and its dependencies as their head-quarters. Should, however, such emergency arise as may, in the opinion of the Naval Commander-in-Chief, render it necessary to remove either or both of such ships, he shall inform the Governor of the reasons for such temporary removal.

SCHEDULE TO AGREEMENT.

LIMITS OF AUSTRALIA STATION.

The Australia Station, as referred to in Article II. of the foregoing Agreement, is bounded—

NORTH.—On the North from the meridian of 95 degrees East, by the parallel of the tenth degree of South latitude, to 130 degrees East longitude, thence northward on that meridian to the parallel of 2 degrees North latitude, and thence on that parallel to the meridian of 136 degrees East longitude, thence north to 12 degrees North latitude, and along that parallel to 160 degrees West longitude, thence South to the Equator, thence East to the meridian of 149 degrees 30 minutes West longitude.

WEST.—On the West by the meridian of 95 degrees East longitude

SOUTH.—On the South by the Antarctic Circle.

EAST.—On the East by the meridian of 149 degrees 30 minutes West longitude.

LIMITS OF THE CHINA STATION.

The China Station, as referred to in Article II. of the foregoing agreement, is bounded—

NORTH.—On the North from the meridian of 95 degrees of East longitude in 10 degrees North latitude, along that parallel to the West coast of the Malay Peninsula, thence by the shores of Asia as far as the meridian of 180 degrees.

WEST.—On the West from the latitude of 10 degrees North by the meridian of 95 degrees East longitude to 10 degrees of South latitude.

SOUTH.

SOUTH.—On the South from the meridian of 95 degrees East longitude by the parallel of 10 degrees South latitude to 130 degrees East longitude, thence North to 2 degrees North latitude, and along that parallel to 136 degrees East longitude, thence North to 12 degrees North latitude and along that parallel to the meridian of 180 degrees.

EAST.—On the East by the meridian of 180 degrees from 12 degrees North latitude to the point where the meridian reaches the shores of Asia.

LIMITS OF EAST INDIES STATION.

The East Indies Station, as referred to in Article II. of the foregoing Agreement, is bounded—

NORTH.—On the North by the southern shores of Asia, including the Persian Gulf, from an imaginary line drawn from Jebel Sejan on the African coast to Cape Babel Mandeb on the Arabian coast, to where the 10th parallel of North latitude touches the West coast of the Malay Peninsula.

EAST.—On the East by the meridian of 95 degrees East longitude between the parallels of 10 degrees North and 26 degrees South latitude.

SOUTH.—On the South by the 10th parallel of North latitude between the coast of the Malay Peninsula and the 95th meridian of East longitude, and by the parallel of 26 degrees South latitude between the 95th and 42nd meridians of East longitude.

WEST.—On the West by the 42nd meridian of East longitude between the parallels of 26 degrees and 10 degrees South latitude, by the 43rd meridian between the parallel of 10 degrees South and the Equator, and by the East coast of Africa between the Equator and Jebel Sejan.