

by the war, has incalculably added to this growing diminution or elimination of distance. It has come at a stage in the history of the Empire when distance has already done its main work, after, not before, the making of new nations, and the work cannot be undone, even if any one were foolish enough to wish it undone. But in the future the problems of the relations between the component parts of the Empire will no longer be, to anything like the same extent as in the past, problems of distance. The future will be marked by constantly and rapidly growing nearness. This does not necessarily mean the solution of difficulties. For instance, the proximity of Algeria to France has rather complicated than facilitated the relations between the two countries. French policy has wavered between treating Algeria as one with the Mother Country and dealing with it as a distinct unit of the French colonial Empire. Moreover, the same forces which bring the component parts of an Empire nearer to each other bring them in the same degree nearer to foreign nations. But on the balance, it can hardly be doubted that new facilities for transit and quicker communication must lead to closer co-operation and better understanding, and that in this respect the air promises to supply a fresh link between the widely sundered provinces of the Empire.

So much for elimination of distance. But Air Power is also likely to affect Imperial relations in another and a different way. Apart from community of race, language, and so forth, and where community of race and language is non-existent, the two most potent bonds of Empire at the present day are probably the