

of us will live to see such a change in the public opinion of Great Britain as will, I think, grant us what I believe is of very great importance to us. (Cheers.)

THE DEFENCE OF COMMERCE.

In order to render the matter easy I made this suggestion. You know the British taxpayer says, "We have not called upon you to take part in the defence of the Empire," and there is a plausibility in the thought expressed there. "When we pay £30,000,000 for the maintenance of our navy, and almost as much for the maintenance of our army for the protection of the commerce of the colonies, as well as the Mother Country, it is incongruous that the colonies do not contribute anything towards the cost of that protection which they receive." I said: "There is no doubt that that proposition is a reasonable one. We do share in the benefit of every dollar expended on the navy, which is maintained not only for sentimental but for material defence, and the question is in what way can the colonies assume any portion of the cost of the defence of their commerce." I argued that question, "Why should we be called upon to contribute towards the expense of the navy?" We attack no one; we have no quarrels with anybody. We are living at peace with the world. The only place from which we can have any fear of attack is from the United States, and we are not going to quarrel with the United States. If there is any quarrel it will be between the Mother Country and the United States. Why should we be made to contribute towards the expense of a quarrel to which we were not a party? That is not an absolutely illogical position to take.

A DEFENCE FUND.

Supposing we say that the commerce of the Empire that you say has to be protected by the British navy should bear the cost of its own protection. But supposing we came to an understanding upon this score, and this tentative proposition (suggested to me, as I said, in the Mother Country by Col. Denison) were adopted. Supposing the commerce of the empire, which you say is protected by the British navy, should bear the cost of its own protection. What then? You see that is not logical. If we have a trade of \$40,000,000 or \$50,000,000 with England, that requires some protection, and it is not unreasonable that we get some protection for that; and my suggestion was that a tax of 5 per cent. upon all foodstuffs imported into the empire from all other parts of the world would furnish a fund for the common defence of the empire. That view of the situation commended itself to most of the men I spoke to more fully than any other, for this reason, that England realizes the tremendous burden which the cost of this war has imposed upon her—£201,000,000 sterling up to April 30th last—and with the cost of the war amounting to about \$6,000,000 per week, and still going on.