

craft, but nevertheless the marine of Canada shows an increase during the past eighteen years. In 1884 the total number of sailing vessels, steamers, and barges registered in the Dominion was 7,254, measuring 1,253,747 tons, and valued at over £7,500,000. Even in that dull year Canada built 387 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 72,411 tons, and of the value of £700,000. The number of steamers is steadily on the increase—the aggregate tonnage of this class having been 207,669 tons in 1884. Canada consequently owns a commercial marine of which the whole tonnage is exceeded only by that of Great Britain, the United States, and Norway. It may be estimated that Canada has now at least 75,000 men regularly employed in her fisheries and carrying trade. In every port of the world, at some time or other in the course of the year, we can see Canadian sailors and Canadian ships.*

The foregoing figures show the importance of the fisheries as an element of national wealth and strength. In the defences of the Dominion the seventy-five thousand men who sail the vessels and till the deep-sea pastures of Canada must perform an active part. Here exists a Naval Reserve from which the Empire could draw at need in a great Imperial crisis. In an able essay, published by Captain Colomb, R.N., some years ago, he referred at length to this very subject, and showed how the resources of all parts of the Empire can be efficiently combined and organized so as to render each and all almost impregnable. He has shown that the main object of the naval organization of the Empire should consist in the maintenance of its communications by sea, and that the coaling stations of Great Britain abroad are the principal strategical positions which it is essential to guard. He argued that this object will be best attained by the maintenance of an adequate sea-going fleet, charged with two great defensive functions—one to keep the enemy in his own ports, and the other to keep open the great sea routes to and from the heart of the Empire. No doubt the time must come when the whole question of the defence of the Empire will require the earnest consideration of Imperial and Colonial statesmen. If the grand

* I see to every wind unfurled
 The flag that bears the maple wreath;
 Thy swift keels furrow round the world,
 Its blood-red folds beneath.
 Thy swift keels cleave the farthest seas;
 Thy white sails swell with alien gales;
 To stream on each remotest breeze,
 The black smoke of thy pipes exhales.¹

¹ "Canada: A Poem." By T. G. Roberts. *The Century Magazine*, January 1886.