

## THE NAVAL QUESTION

Is there any moral debt, payable now in dollars, which should be assumed by the sons of the Loyalists, who, after having lost all material wealth in the American Revolutionary Wars, made their way, in rags and tatters, hungry and footsore, to hew out for themselves and their descendants new homes in the Maritime Provinces or in the almost impenetrable wildernesses north of the Great Lakes?

As I have pointed out above, no such moral debt rests upon the sons of the United Empire Loyalists; but it is a matter of history that the United Empire Loyalists were willing even to be taxed by the British Crown in America, and rather than join those Colonists who stood upon the principle that there should be no "taxation without representation," fought with the King's Army, and after the War of Secession and after they had been despoiled of their property and effects by the successful Colonists, marched in rags and tatters to Canada to live under the British Flag, and did not think the sacrifice too great for this privilege. I am quite sure that it is not the sons of the United Empire Loyalists who to-day are asking the Canadian Government to withhold its hand from making a contribution to Imperial defence until Great Britain accords representation in Imperial affairs.

The next question put by Mr. Cahan,

Is there now any moral obligation resting upon the descendants, in Canada, of the early French settlers, to pay in whole or in part the costs of the wars by which their race was conquered in New France and made forever a British possession?  
is calculated to stir up national prejudice and race feeling.

One more extract—and the last—I shall quote from Mr. Cahan's letter:

Have the Irish and Scotch emigrants, whose fathers and mothers were driven by political conditions, by poverty or by lack of opportunity in the old lands, to seek new homes in this new world, any moral responsibility for the payment of the expenses of the past wars by which England established her commercial supremacy throughout the world?

This question can also be answered emphatically in the negative, but it is interesting, as it shows that Mr. Cahan realizes that, notwithstanding the wonderful wealth accumulated by Great Britain during the last "fifty generations," many of its inhabitants are forced by poverty or lack of opportunity in the old land to seek new homes in this new world.

Mr. Cahan's "fifty generations," however, takes us back to about the year 412—just about the time the Roman legions were withdrawn from Britain. The Empire is not quite as old as that. Until 1583, when nominal possession was taken of Newfoundland by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, the Sovereignty of the English Crown had not extended beyond the limits of the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. All the Colonies and Dependencies of Great Britain have been acquired since the date mentioned.

To show that the expense of the maintenance of the Empire has fallen more largely upon the present generation of Englishmen than on any preceding generation, it is only necessary to mention that the British