

I.—OBJECTIONS TO A POLICY OF CONTRIBUTION.

OBJECTION No. 1.—It gives rise to difficulty in fixing the amount.

MR. FOSTER.—“The first difficulty is that as to fixing the amount of the contribution. . . . How long shall the sum which you have fixed to-day remain the proper sum, and will it not be subject to constant revision, constant negotiation, and maybe occasional disagreement, and consequent troubles?”

OBJECTION No. 2.—It smacks too much of tribute.

MR. FOSTER.—“Another objection raised is that it smacks too much of tribute. That we are a free people and we do not want to be paying a contribution to the Old Country for this or for any other purpose.”

OBJECTION No. 3.—It is payment without control.

MR. FOSTER.—“But one says, we pay but we do not control.”

OBJECTION No. 4.—It impinges on autonomy.

MR. FOSTER.—“Another objection to be set forth is that it impinges on our autonomy.”

OBJECTION No. 5.—It may be used for purposes not approved of.

MR. FOSTER.—“Another objection that is made is that **Britain may use our contribution in unjustifiable wars**, and that we should guard ourselves carefully lest we make a contribution for the equipment and strengthening of a fleet which **may be used in wars that we do not approve of.**”

With regard to Objections 2, 3, and 4, Mr. Foster says: “These objections have some force, though, as I think, not a force that is irresistible. There are some deeper reasons which appear to me to have deeper force with reference to that method of taking our part in defence.” Here they are:

OBJECTION No. 6.—It is hiring others to perform services which should be done by ourselves.

MR. FOSTER.—“The greatest objection which I have to a fixed money contribution is that it bears the aspect of hiring somebody else to do what we ourselves ought to do. As though a man, the father of a family, in lusty health and strength, should pay his neighbor something per month for looking after the welfare and safety of his home, instead of doing that duty himself.”