

If Great Britain went down in a contest, the Empire would fall asunder. If Great Britain won, it would be with such a depletion of her strength, such an exhaustion of her resources such an impairment of her Commerce, and such a drain for many years to come upon her treasury, that she would be obliged to relinquish her altruistic policy of supporting an Empire Navy; and she would be obliged to abandon the Over-Seas possessions to their own Fate. Another Empire would have fallen!

In face of all this Canada, who boasts so vehemently of the British Empire, and of her imposing place in it, is told that she has no obligations to provide her own protection, or to support in any way, the Navy that now holds the Empire together and imparts to it much of its prestige. Her would-be Leaders, I prefer to call them her blatant deceivers, invoke her against taking any step that might render more difficult a commercial negotiation about the admission of some Foreigner's Merchandise and warn her, with an uplifted finger of ominous portent, not to be drawn into the Vortex of European Militarism.

They say, however, after gallant Australia, and heroic New Zealand have shamed them out of their poltroon passiveness, that springing from a sense of gratitude and generosity, Canada is willing, when the emergency arises, to make any reasonable "Sacrifice" for the honour and aid of the Mother Country. They do not admit that the emergency has arisen or that it now exists.

All I can say is what I recently said at a meeting of Vancouver Citizens, when I was the means of preventing the passing of a stultifying resolution to this effect—however much the boast may smack of loyalty and devotion, it is a three-fold insult. It is an insult to the people of the United Kingdom, it is an insult to the people of Canada, and it is an insult to the Empire.

*The cause that is at stake is a cause in which Canada is vitally concerned. It is, in fact, her own.*

If the people of Canada admit this assertion, then Canada owes a duty to herself, and an obligation to the Empire.

How can they in performing that duty and that obligation, left so long undischarged, and so long a burden on one portion of the Empire alone, assume the attitude of benefactors and designate their act as a "Sacrifice" on their part, for the honour and glory of the Motherland? This is making a virtue of a necessity with a vengeance.

If Canada does not admit the hypothesis that the cause before us to-day, is a cause of vital concern to herself; if it is not necessary for her either to have a Navy of her own for National defence, or to Imperialize Great Britain's Naval Force by contributing to it, and making it adequate for Empire purposes, then seeing the many requirements she has for capital to develop her resources, the proposal to allocate any part of her Public Revenue, either to found a National Navy Force, or to subsidize the Navy of Great Britain is reckless madness and rank extravagance. It is *Ultra-Vires* of any Elective Government; for necessity and utilitarian advantage are the only justifications for Governmental expenditure.

Is there, then, any present necessity or prospective utility in Canada now initiating the nucleus of a National Navy, or pending her doing so, of her contributing in any way to the maintenance of the Standard of the British Navy, so as to make it, in the meantime, adequate for the needs of the Empire? Assuredly there are both a present advantage, and a prospective utility to Canada herself.

The act would make Canada a Nation among the world of Nations—incalculable present prestige; and a Nation within the Empire—intestimable future splendour!

The Empire, not Great Britain, needs Canada's co-operation.

The Empire needs Canada's co-operation because Canada is a part of the Empire, and the brightest star in the Anglo-Saxon - Language - speaking constellation of Nations now under the British Crown.

Can Canada remain indifferent to anything that pertains to the Empire? Is she so absolutely besotted with selfish-