

Professor Seely, in his work, "The Expansion of England," says: "With us Empire building has taken the form of pure evolution, little heeded in the process and almost wholly without guidance." If this is the case, a kindly Providence has taken a very careful supervision of our affairs, for as far as human judgment goes, the builders of the British Empire have founded colonies and forged chains of communication which give us powers of offence and defence of incomparable strength. The struggle between nations in the future and the certain cause of future wars will most certainly be due to commercial competition, and the search for markets. In this matter we find that Britain has not been lagging far behind, for we find the following British "protectorates" lately formed, opening vast areas to unrestricted trade:

Southern Nigeria, Northern Nigeria, Somaliland Protectorate, East African Protectorate, Uganda Protectorate, Witu Protectorate, Zanzibar Protectorate, British Central African Protectorate.

All these lately organized territories, added to the newly opened and rich South African Transvaal and Orange River Colonies offer great fields to the industry and commerce of our race. But they must be guarded, or they might fall into the hands of those hungry nations who by protective tariffs drain the earnings from unindustrial and subservient races, so as to enrich alone their own manufacturers and merchants, and to do so bar out anything like open or alien competition. It will thus be seen that the benefits to be derived from the acquisition of new countries and markets are not benefits to the Mother Country only, but are shared by all of the Empire alike, and if the cost of acquisition falls upon the United Kingdom only, it is only fair and reasonable that the cost and burden of maintaining and guarding should fall upon every portion of the Empire which shares in the benefits.

There is a restlessness growing among Britons beyond the seas that the children should bear a share in the trials and the honors which belong to a mighty Empire; there is a longing to bind the scattered fragments of our power into one harmonious and mighty bond. The freedom of the press and speech, the action of our courts of

law, the particular mode of carrying on municipal and public affairs, a thousand points peculiar to Anglo-Saxon civilization—all these lead us to that particular conduct and attitude which make us hateful to other nations, and force us into ever-tightening bonds of alliance for mutual protection. The time must soon come—indeed, every incident in the life of the Nation shows that the hour has come—when the Empire shall be made one for the defence of each separate and individual part.

III.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR AND HIS PROPOSALS.

At the present time the first duty of every citizen is to make sure that the vital centre of our Imperial power is secure, and the second duty is to assist to carry out an organization for the defence of every part of our great Empire. The combined resources of our Nation are so vast that it is not to be credited that any statesman of any nation upon earth would dare to hazard a war against us if—if we were thoroughly organized for defence. We must, however, always bear in mind that the vast extent of surface of the earth which is covered by our flag and the great distances which divide different portions of our domain render some part of it always likely to be involved in disagreement with a foreign Power, and dangerously open to sudden attack at a distance from the seat of our power. For guarding our distant points the Navy is of course of paramount importance, but it is easy to see that our Navy, even if it were of double the strength it is at present, would yet be unable to ensure every portion of the Empire against attack, and we must besides remember that our land frontiers, bordering possible nations, enormous in extent, are probably greater than the land frontiers of any other Power. To defend them we must have land forces, well equipped, well trained and perfectly organized—forces not necessarily confined to the defence of their own immediate frontiers, but ready to move at an instant's notice to give assistance in the defence of any other portion of the Empire whose integrity and interests are threatened. The war in South Africa has proved