

### THE POINT OF DANGER.

Away with this idea too long held and still held in some quarters, that Canada must do nothing, lest thereby she enters into the maelstrom of European strife. Analyze that idea for a moment. From what quarter is England menaced? From Asia? No. From Africa? No. From America? No. Whence is her menace to-day? It is in Europe, and if combinations of powers, or if any one power in Europe aims a spear at her heart, that is where my shield and helm should be to ward off the pointed dart and to prevent the death-dealing thrust. Britain is powerful to-day because of her European affiliations and her European influence; she could not be as powerful anywhere else.

I saw when I was in London what was to me a most significant spectacle. It was in the fury and flame of the Balkan-Turkish war. There was a Guildhall banquet at which Prime Minister Asquith spoke; it was at a most critical time; the French Prime Minister had taken a leading part in peace negotiations; he had done all that his country could urge him to do and all that a man could do, but after all, there were cross-currents. Mr. Asquith rose in that Guildhall; he spoke as Mr. Asquith, but he spoke for Britain; he spoke for the Empire; he spoke as the representative of a great power; what he said was calm and measured, counselling holding special questions until general questions had been settled, suggesting to the chancelleries of Europe coolness and wise repression of minor differences. Next day, Sir, in every European country and all over the world the advice of Mr. Asquith was lauded, and more, it was taken, and a crisis was averted. Why had Mr. Asquith's words such power? It was because he was the head of a nation whose fleet was invincible as compared with any other. Great Britain's fleet could not make much headway against the interior of Germany or the interior of Austria, or the Himalayas—where a fleet gives a nation power is where it touches a nation which has maritime possessions and mari-