

They may be left in the Lurch.

Are they not wise to avoid this?

Undoubtedly, **if they can count with certainty on being defended** when the trouble comes.

But this is **just what they cannot do.**

Increasing Demand upon the Navy.

Every year entails fresh demands upon the Navy, tending to make it less adequate for the work it has to do, owing to

1. The growth of commerce on the seas, especially Colonial commerce independent of the United Kingdom.
2. The rapid increase in the wealth of the Colonies rendering them more liable to attack.
3. The growth of the Navies of other nations.

Those who Pay the Piper must call the Tune.

It is evident that in stress of war **the first call on the Navy must be to defend the United Kingdom**, the people of which pay for and control it. It is inevitable that they should think of themselves first. History shows that in the war of 1779—1782, the West Indian Islands—then the most valuable of the British Colonies—were **virtually abandoned till the Channel was made safe.**

Country First, Food Supplies Next: Colonies — P

After the safety of the United Kingdom, the services of the Navy would next be imperatively required by those who have paid for it, for the protection of the **ocean routes by which their daily food reaches them**; and in time of war these routes would not necessarily lead to the Colonies.

"Who Paid for this Navy?"

No other considerations are likely to prevail with people in such a position, who can say, "**We alone provided this Navy** through all these years of peace; now that the war has come we mean to use it."