

"Cape Colony ought to, and could, in conjunction with the other Colonies, contribute to the cost of the Imperial Navy."—*The Hon. Sir J. Gordon Sprigg, K.C.M.G., Treasurer of Cape Colony, September, 1895.*

"It is to the Navy that the Empire will look in time of need, and the Colonies should contribute their share to the heavy expenditure involved."—*Cape Argus, August 13, 1895.*

"Not only have the aims and objects of the Navy League met with hearty approval, but we have gone further and have confirmed the principle (*laid down by the Imperial Federation (Defence) Committee*), that the Colonists should in equity, as well as self-interest, contribute to the cost of maintenance and further expansion of the Imperial Navy by an annual subsidy."—*The Mayor of Durban, Natal, August 31, 1895.*

Perhaps the most outspoken utterance on the Colonial side is that in the *Daily Northern Argus*, a Queensland paper, which, in a leading article on the Message of the Australian Governments to Lord Salisbury, said:—

"To those who have a lively recollection of the debate upon, and the difficulty Sir S. W. Griffith experienced in passing, the necessary enactment authorising the payment of Queensland's small share towards the maintenance of the Australian Auxiliary Squadron, this Colony's action in joining in such Message can only be regarded as a thoughtless piece of impertinence. 'The people of Australasia,' says the Message, 'are in full sympathy with the determination of the Mother Country to resent any foreign interference in matters of British and Colonial concern.' Surely this is a very cheap and tawdry piece of sentiment coming from a people whose Legislature, but a few years ago, flouted the Imperial Navy, and talked boastfully of the Imperial duty to protect Queensland's commerce on the deadhead principle. Of course, there is to some extent a practical value in the sentiment that blood is thicker than water, but an expression of it, at a time like the present, comes with a very bad grace from a community who have always claimed the advantages of the relationship in a very determined spirit of economy. . . . Sentiment and fact show great inconsistency, and Jingo telegrams are, under the circumstances, more ludicrous than patriotic. . . . That eloquent orator, the late William Bede Dalley, when Chief Secretary of New South Wales, said, 'Britain's Fleet is the instrument of power, and the symbol of her unity'. British ships of war are the safeguard of Colonial liberty, and the natural chain which holds the scattered communities together. . . .' But though Mr. Dalley contributed the Soudan goat to the collection of the Colony's curios, New South Wales has never dipped very deep in her pockets for contributions to the support of the Imperial Navy. Queensland through its public men has characterised any contribution to the cost of Imperial defence as 'crushing out the natural life of the Colony,' 'taxation without representation.' It was said 'that there was a spirit of independence in Australia, and that they were quite able to take care of their own interests,' and a lot more of what was doubtless nonsense. But the fact remains that all Queensland could be induced to pay towards the maintenance of the British Navy, as proof of what