

OUR SAFETY IS AN OVERPOWERING EMPIRE NAVY.

1. The naval forces of the Empire should be so strong that if any country should fight the Empire, the warships of that country could be chased off the ocean and prevented from harming our ships.

2. But, further than that, the sea-power of the Empire should be so great that no other country will venture to fight at all. Thus peace will be preserved, and peace is our great interest.

We now have one substantive fact achieved. We find that Canada is vitally interested, (1) that the British Isles should continue strong and prosperous; (2) that the Empire should be so strong that no great war is likely to occur.

IS THE BRITISH NAVY STRONG ENOUGH?

Now comes the further question: Is not the British Empire safe already? Is not the British Navy overwhelmingly strong to-day? Is there any need to strengthen it?

THE STAKE AT ISSUE IS ENORMOUS.

We must remember that the wealth and resources of the Empire are so vast, its area embraces territories so enormous, so valuable and so undeveloped, it is so scattered over all the continents and many of the islands of the ocean, that its very existence is utterly dependent upon the security of the highways of the ocean. Because of this dependence, considerations of ordinary business prudence make it incumbent that there shall be no question as to the perfect adequacy of our naval forces to meet any combination or attack that is within the bounds of reasonable probability. The British Empire cannot afford to take the same margin of risk that would be permissible in a power whose territory is all on one continent.

A COMPARISON OF MAN-POWER.

It also must be remembered that the British Empire is not too strong in one great resource—in the number of its white men. The great Powers compare thus:—

British Empire (white men).....	56,000,000
United States	93,000,000
Germany	66,000,000
Austria-Hungary	50,000,000
Italy	36,000,000
France	40,000,000
Russia (in Europe)	135,000,000
Japan ...	53,000,000