

no doubt
pire. The
combin
dly state
and desire
view our
It would
organise
We are
power of
y to Can-
and South
energy,
Britain are
ntry.

WATER

h Empire
purpose
vided into
ted by the
s and the
possessions
ed in the
numerate
which, if
all signifi-
r assured
fence and
y can be
hending.
all append
ive imports
will have
on when
the bal-

£10,020,600
450,000
5,908,000
12,243,000

£76,000,000
3,200,000
129,000,000
60,000,000

5,339,000
198,000
1,920,000
5,000,000

es from

Whitaker's Almanack for 1902, and we may accept them as probably approximately correct. From the large volume of the commerce here shown we can see how all important it is that the trade of our fast growing overseas countries should be guarded; and it does not need any argument to show that these self-governing countries are directly and vitally affected in the maintenance of our sea power—that is in the safe guarding of the property which is carried under the one flag of our Empire. As we have given the figures which make up the power and wealth of our great Colonies, it is well here to give similar particulars for the United Kingdom: Revenue, £114,774,000; exports and imports, £877,450,000; population, 41,600,000.

Since commencing this series of letters on "The Defence of Our Empire," I have seen in a paper published in London, England, a reference to a publication issued by the Imperial Federation Defence Committee, by a Mr. Bignold, of Australia, called "The Burden of Empire," in which calculations are made of the cost of defence based on the statistics of 1899-1900. The author has had access to books and authorities not within my reach here in Vancouver or British Columbia. Mr. Bignold gives the cost of defence of the Empire in that year as £53,000,000, and states that the expenditure of the four great self-governing Colonies during that period, including local defence, amounted to sums as under:

Cape Colony.....	£250,000
Natal.....	87,000
Canada.....	491,000
Australia.....	713,000

He further states that the direct contribution of these four countries to the Imperial forces was £162,000.

It appears reasonable and logical that the cost of the defence of our Empire should be based on the revenue, population and sea-borne trade of each portion of that Empire. If the wealth of each component part were proportionately equal. If wealth were equally distributed the burden to be borne would work out with the following result:

On a basis of revenue, the four-named colonies would be charged an annual sum of £16,000,000; on a basis of population they would pay £10,000,-

000; and on a basis of sea-borne trade they would pay £13,000,000; or taking a mean of revenue, population and sea-borne trade, an annual payment of £13,000,000, in place of £162,000. I have not the exact data on which Mr. Bignold has based his calculations. Indeed, I have only read a short review of his book, but the Australian writer is not likely to publish such a statement without fairly correct figures to work upon, or to err on the "wrong" side. I may here state that an appeal for the self-governing colonies to pay a share of the defence of the Empire, calculated on such a basis as given above, however logical the reasoning may be, is not likely to be put forward by the Mother Country. We have an example of the use of policy that the Parliament of Great Britain has adopted, by the taking upon the United Kingdom of the payment of all expenses connected with the colonial contingents serving in the South African War. It will rest upon the self-governing colonies themselves to declare whether or no they are prepared to share the "Burden of Empire," as well as sharing in the advantages which connection with the Flag gives them.

The possessions of Great Britain, other than those of the great self-governing class referred to, may be grouped as armed links in the chains of communication which bind the Empire together; Malta, Gibraltar, Aden, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Jamaica and others which are fitted at enormous cost to afford repairs to vessels of war and trade; places fully armed to oppose even a serious attack. The other group is composed of islands and territories affording markets for the produce of all parts of our Empire, or so placed as to be necessary acquisitions in order to prevent their occupation by other possible hostile Powers. Thus, the Pacific Islands, British New Guinea and Fiji are subservient to and natural appendages of Australia and New Zealand; while Bermuda and the West India Islands are sentries to our trade with the British American countries, Mauritius, the Seychelles, Ascension and St. Helena, if not under the British flag, but possessed by any other nation, would cut asunder the lines of trade between South Africa and the other British territories on the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans.