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Australia, without any demurs that are now worth noticing, is bent on having an Australian fleet, built as far as possible in Australia, and manned by Australians. Critics point to how little Australia is doing after all. That, at the present moment, is not the point. The thing is that Australians, instead of developing the feeling of independence, grasp the principle of inter-dependence amongst all the Britains. Members of the Labour Party have not shown any marked objection to an Australian fleet, though there was some boggling at it being under the jurisdiction of the British Admiralty. This was representative of the public thought not so many months ago. But the persuasive eloquence of Mr. Deakin, the late Prime Minister, brought the multitude into line to accept the arrangement that, whilst the Australian fleet will serve in Australian waters in time of peace, it shall pass under the control of the Imperial naval authorities in times of Imperial emergency.

Further, there is the belief that all young Australians should learn how to shoulder and fire a rifle. A scheme of compulsory military training was long shuttlecocked. But it has been taken up in earnest by the Government, and in conversation with all sorts of men I rarely heard anything but the heartiest approval of the project. Whilst, therefore, a strong State sentiment exists and a great Imperial sentiment is saturating the hearts of the Australians, the very thing which might be expected to militate against a national sentiment is really levering it into existence. From Australia's recog-