

a new standard of strength for the Navy. Having determined that standard, the constituent parts of the Empire should be invited to proportionately defray one-third of the estimated annual future cost of the Navy, the remaining two-thirds being borne by Great Britain. If any of the Colonies declined to contribute, we should not, of course, dream of coercing them to that end, but they should be given clearly to understand that if they do not consider the protection afforded them by the British fleet worth paying for, they must not expect it either in peace time or during war."

In the Colonies also there is to be found some recognition of the necessity of following words by deeds. We have already seen that the Canadian Government is alive to the necessity of strengthening the defences of the Dominion, and it is a coincidence, which we prefer to regard as pathetic rather than ridiculous, that on the very same day that the cable gave us the report of Mr. Foster's speech on the subject in Parliament, a message came from Toronto to the effect that—

"A number of captains of steamers on Lake Ontario held a meeting here last night, and unanimously adopted a resolution expressing their readiness to place their services at the disposal of the Imperial Government should any occasion arise."

At about the same date, too, Mr. Seddon, the Premier of New Zealand, was reported to have announced the pleasing intelligence that that Colony was "fully equipped to resist any invader"—which may perhaps be news to the naval and military authorities of the Imperial forces. And in order that the 15th and 16th Jan. might everywhere be red-letter days in the calendar, a Melbourne telegram of the latter date told us that—

"Yielding to pressure from experts, the Government has restored the permanent artillery force manning the forts at Port Phillip Head to the strength at which it stood before a retrenchment was made."

South Africa was too much occupied with its own share in the crisis to join in the recent chorus. But it is noteworthy that the expressions of readiness to *act* that came not long ago from that quarter of the Empire showed more than any others an appreciation of the true nature of Imperial Defence, and a recognition of what Colonial co-operation really means if it is to be anything but a sham. The three following extracts have already appeared in a previous publication (No. 6) of this series; but they are too apposite not to be repeated here:—