

ly maintained in proper quantities, and factories for their manufacture would add greatly to our national strength.

Our Marine Trade.

Canada is one of the great maritime countries of the world. Her mercantile marine is high up in the scale of nations, while her foreign trade is very large and growing with great rapidity and with every prospect of constant increase. She is dependent for the defence of this great outside trade upon the British navy to which she has not yet contributed a farthing. This work is done for her by the people of the United Kingdom, who pay about \$2.75 per head per annum for the navy which defends all the trade of the empire. The mercantile tonnage of the British Empire, according to our last year book, shows that the tonnage of the United Kingdom is 9,001,860, of Canada 679,352, of the Australasian colonies 500,000, in all 10,181,212 tons. The cost of the British navy which defends this shipping is estimated net for this year at £28,791,900. If we paid our proportion as calculated on the tonnage our share would be about \$9,500,000 per annum for naval defence, and yet we pay nothing.

We have some 70,000 sailors and seafaring men engaged in our mercantile marine and as fishermen, and the mother country is in great need of more men to man the fleets that guard our mercantile interests. We should, therefore, try and do our share by training and paying the retaining fee for a reserve of 5,000 sailors at least, as a trained and efficient reserve to aid the mother country to defend the common interest in any great emergency.

Improve Army Service.

In order to maintain our defensive forces in proper condition there should be such inducements as would attract good officers and encourage them to devote their energies to their profession. The commanding officers of districts, being actually Brigadier-Generals commanding brigades, and in some cases even divisions, should have the rank, title and pay of Brigadier-Generals; their staff officers should have their proper titles and allowances; the Major-General commanding should have higher pay than he gets, and the position should be open to Canadian officers. A pension fund should be established, so that when men got too old for their work they could be retired on an allowance, and then under

such a system the country would be more likely to secure a class of men who now avoid entering a force where there is no career and no prizes.

We must soon face all these expenses and burdens; we must soon begin building warships in Sydney or other seaports, and all these schemes I have outlined will cost large sums. But we must do this or else give up defence altogether, and then where would we be? We cannot expect the overburdened English taxpayer to go on defending us forever, if we refuse to do our share, or even a portion of our share, for the common defence, and the logical outcome could only be independence, and if independent we could only preserve that independence by very much heavier outlay. And if we lost our independence and became absorbed in the United States, our proportion of taxes for the military and naval expenses in proportion to our population would be \$30,000,000 per annum, which is many times as large a sum as would amply cover the expenditure that I have been outlining.

Import Duty Suggested.

I advocated in England last summer before the Council of the British Empire League that there should be a duty placed on all foreign imports in every port of the empire to provide a common defence fund. This would produce a large sum if fixed at, say, 5 per cent. or even more, and would give a preferential advantage to every part of the empire in every other part of it. Five per cent. advantage over the foreigner in the English markets would be worth far more to us than any extra expenditure we should have to make for defence. It would encourage immigration, help to make our country prosperous, to keep our people at home and would stimulate the development of all our resources. Our imports from all foreign countries in 1899 amounted to \$122,838,000. A special duty of 5 per cent. on that amount would produce about \$6,100,000, which should very rapidly put our defences in a very much better position, and would be nothing in comparison to the trade advantages we would get, and the common bond of interest it would be to hold all parts of the empire together. It is a very grave question whether it would not pay us to consent to a much higher percentage if the rest of the empire would agree to it. The foreign importations of Great Britain for 1899 amounted to £378,206,000; 5 per cent. duty on that sum would only produce £18,900,000 towards her expenditure of £44,068,000 on defence in 1898-9.