

of one common fleet, under one controlling and representative authority—a fleet whose command of the sea, whether in the Atlantic, Mediterranean or Pacific, is never in doubt. The lessons of history have not been lost upon the legislators of our sister Dominion and they have intimated their intention to contribute towards the common fleet of Empire to the extent of half a million dollars annually and have donated a Dreadnought cruiser in addition. Canada and Australia, on the other hand, have each adopted a policy of naval independence. One could understand such a policy if there were any local needs, but there are none; the days of privacy have gone. The commerce of Canada, like that of every other part of the Empire, is protected by the great battle fleets in the North Sea and ever will be so long as that power remains supreme. But after all, local defence if it be necessary, must always be subordinate to Imperial defence. The constituent parts of the Empire never can be strong, never can be powerful enough, whatever that local defence be, if it is only local. On the other hand a serious menace to their independence, is I believe quite impossible so long as the Imperial system of defence is adequate—so long as Great Britain maintains that maritime predominance which is the very condition of our being. The growth of our Empire from the most insignificant spots on the map of the world has been due to seamanship, the individualization of sea power. As this was responsible for its acquisition so too has it been responsible for its retention. But the supremacy of Great Britain at sea besides being essential for the retention of the Empire, is also absolutely necessary for the livelihood of the forty-five millions of people inhabiting

the limited area of the United Kingdom. As a matter of fact, if the mother country surrendered every foot of land beyond her own shores, she could not afford to give up one single torpedo destroyer. The daily bread of her inhabitants is solely dependent upon her naval supremacy, and this once surrendered, not only would the greatness of the old land pass away, but that stupendous and wonderful empire unparalleled in history would inevitably fall to pieces. Our Empire enjoys natural advantages which, if made use of, must always give it the lead in sea power. A proper organization of our defence resources would transfer from the shoulders of the British taxpayer every cent levied for military service and place this on the shoulders of the colonial. The colonies would have the satisfaction of knowing that the sea was absolutely part of the Empire held by unassailable fleets. The burden upon their own shoulders would be light and of congenial nature, for the daily calling of the average colonial is such as already makes him two-thirds a soldier; then too, the disposition of those troops would be convenient. For service in India colonial brigades would be drawn with ease from Australia and Africa. Then again each of the colonies should hold itself responsible for the absolute security of its coal-ing ports and harbours of refuge. In undertaking this at their own expense, and with their own manhood, they would be giving a far more practical contribution to the defence of the Empire than by the selfish and ineffective policy of local and independent navies. The recent election in this country demonstrated clearly that our people rally to the cry of Canada for the Canadians. Whilst doing all we can to stimulate this national spirit