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**TO HAVE AND TO HOLD.** BRITANNIA became mistress of the seas more because our forebears were land-loving than because they were sea-faring.

Answering his self-put query "Who are the English?" an American writer said recently:

"They are Saxons, who love the land, who love their liberty, and whose sole claim to genius is their commonsense."

This epigram—worthy of a Montesquieu—covers much that is characteristic of the joint race of Britons. Applied to modern conditions, "love of the land" indicates the British attitude towards tangible wealth. What we have we would hold—striving, the while, for more. To-day's Empire-wide movement towards joint defence has come about largely as a necessary means to an end,—protection of the homeland, of colonies and dominions overseas, and of that "stake in every country" due to trade development.

In the course of centuries the British Empire has come to include over one-fifth of all the 55,000,000 square miles of land there are. The Empire's population makes up more than one-fifth of the world-total of 1,800,000,000—being over 400,000,000. The import and export trade of the component parts of the Empire has aggregated £1,500,000,000 in one year.

As common carrier to the world, the mercantile marine of Great Britain and her colonies makes up over 18,825,000 tons of the world's gross tonnage of 41,450,000—or almost one-half. In overseas carrying the proportion is still greater.

In part a cause and in part an effect of commercial extension, there has gone a marked increase in the placing of British capital everywhere. The capital invested overseas by the United Kingdom alone is estimated by The Statist, of London, at £2,700,000,000 bringing an income of some £140,000,000 yearly.

**AN IMPERIUM FROM** the sordidness that would lie in caring for things material alone, the British race is saved by "love of liberty." In its essence this is more than individualistic. Nor is it confined by geographic or even ethnic bounds. Happily, one-time alien races have joined in the working out of self-government, and in so doing have become imbued with the spirit of wider fellowship.

Before the era of quick travel and instantaneous communication, it is not surprising that isolated communities remained narrow in their interests. Nor was this altogether disadvantageous. In the up-

building of strongly autonomous parts there were the beginnings of a mightier whole. But, during the latter third of the past century, "shrinkage of time and space" made possible a new community of interest and ideals—and, within the past decade, the hidden has been revealing itself more rapidly.

Never was there people whose common sense so honoured in their breach the mere theories of government. As Professor Josef Redlich, of Vienna, has pointed out, the British instinct of government does not occupy itself with theories based upon exact logic. In the practise of self-government, the Briton's "genius for common-sense" seeks the particular solution of any problem as it arises. Thus have come about all sorts of anomalies and legal fictions—as well as practical efficiency unequalled.

**TRIPLE BONDS WITHOUT** any checking of self-government, bonds of Empire are being strengthened notably.

First, there is the gradual growth of preferential trade, of which the most recent sign is the appointment of a Royal Commission to consider commercial relations between Canada and the West Indies. Preferential tariff arrangements, while prompted largely by feelings of kinship, are dependent upon economic grounds.

Second, there is the present movement towards a definite sharing in Imperial defence by the overseas dominions. This, undoubtedly, takes its chief strength from loyal purpose—though head strengthens heart as it computes the loss in wealth and in welfare that would come to every part of an Empire dismembered.

And, third, there exists the nucleus of an organized getting-together upon all matters relating to the Empire at large. This consists in what has been jestingly termed "the conference habit."

In the development of an Imperial Conference—consultive not legislative in its functions—there will most likely be found the practical attainment of Imperial unity.

No "vast ship of empyr" can escape final wreck if its course runs counter to any of the three main streams of tendency along which the race of Britons has made its progress thus far,—a reaching-out towards material prosperity, a development of race-consciousness that takes account of nearer ties and overseas kinship, and a resistless instinct for practical efficiency in self-government.