

but at what a cost to the people of the United Kingdom ! Not that those who bear the burthen are so unpatriotic as to grudgingly dole out the money necessary for the upkeep of our army and navy. No sacrifice would by most people be considered too great a price to pay for the protection which these afford in the hour of danger, but the question is being asked, Are we using our enormous resources to the best advantage? . . . Our army and navy, with the exception of the Indian and West Indian forces, may be said to be entirely recruited at home, and supported by home taxation. The Colonies share in the benefit and privileges which the possession of these ensure, and they are prepared to participate in the outlay which their upkeep renders necessary; are prepared even to equip and man military and naval forces of their own. In some measure the offer has been accepted, but not to anything like the extent which probable circumstances may ultimately be found to demand. We may with justice, as with pride, lay claim to the possession of the greatest empire on the face of the earth. Why not utilise its enormous resources; and why drain the British taxpayer with an ever-increasing expenditure in times of depression, when the no less loyal Colonist is willing to share it with him?"

Or this, from *The Liverpool Daily Courier* of the same date, which supplements what goes before by pointing out how the desired end is to be attained :—

"Sir Michael Hicks-Beach says that if Canada is prepared to fight for us, we must be ready to fight for Canada. Quite so. The sentiment is excellent. Just now—thanks to foreign bluster—it is exceptionally warm, and it points towards the right goal. But the thing required is a thorough organisation of all the resources of the Empire. All the elements of invincible strength exist, but they need form, order, and cohesion in a grand system of Imperial defence.

"'The Colonies are ready to help the Mother Country.' This, in reality, means that they are thoroughly willing. It is much to be sure of that. But how could they help us? Just at present no one of them would be able to defend itself. A place, a duty, a proportional obligation should rest on each. There is not the slightest ground for supposing that any member of the great group is indisposed to bear its share. But in order that any plan of Imperial defence may be complete and effective a Council of the Empire is essential."

More recently *The Whitehall Review* said :—

"A writer in one of the magazines recently assured the people of this country that the real bond of union with the Colonies 'consists in mutual affections deeply felt, which are an assurance to ourselves, to our sons in the Colonies, and to the whole world, that in the hour of trial all British subjects will stand shoulder to shoulder for the defence of the Empire.' An excellent sentiment this, but we must have something more practical than this 'shoulder to shoulder' talk. What that something ought to be seems clear enough to us, and the present appears to be an extremely appropriate time for settling the matter. The Government is now, if we are correctly informed, about to create