

British Army and Navy Estimates for 1883-4 were as follows:

Army	£14,641,000
Navy	9,279,000
Army and Navy Pensions	5,947,000
Diplomacy	618,000

£30,485,000—\$148,363,000

If apportioned in the same way as representation, according to population, Canada's share would be something less than one-tenth, say about fourteen million dollars.† This would give an army of 137,000 men, and a navy 57,000 seamen and marines. Now I should like to know what sort of an army and navy Canada could maintain as an independent nation for \$14,000,000. Would it be one to cope with the United States? If we look at the United States we find that their corresponding expenditure for the same year was as follows:

Army	\$48,911,000
Navy	15,283,000
Army and Navy Pensions	60,451,000
Diplomacy	2,419,000
	\$127,064,000

If Canada were annexed to the United States her share of this would be say \$12,000,000, and this would give an army of 27,000 men, and a navy of 11,000. In other words, the expense would be six-sevenths, and the strength would be less than one-fifth of that of the British army and navy, without counting the Indian troops, which, exclusive of native troops, bring the number up to 700,000 men, all of which would be available in case of need.

The Imperial charge would then be \$14,000,000. From this would be deducted Canada's present military expenditure of \$1,240,000 paid for volunteers, pensions and mounted police, for which she would receive credit. But the indemnity of members, subsidizing of steamships to carry them across the ocean, and of submarine telegraphs for free telegraphing, and other expenses, might make the sum \$14,000,000 in all. How could this be raised?

The scheme I have the good fortune to present for your consideration is one that perhaps no Canadian or member of any other colony would have ventured to broach. But it is one that has been elaborated by an Englishman in a high position in the statistical branch of the Customs Department of the United Kingdom. I may therefore give it as embodying the ideas of some of those that take a practical view of the question from an English standpoint. It is conceived in a spirit eminently fair to the colonies and in a peculiar degree advantageous to Canada. The gentleman I refer to is Mr. Stephen Bourne, F.S.S., of Wallington, Surrey, who developed it in a paper read before the British Association in Montreal, entitled "The Interdependence of the several portions of the British Empire." It was published at length in the *Montreal Gazette* of 7th October, 1884.

Mr. Bourne's scheme was briefly this. That there should be complete commercial freedom throughout the British Empire. That to provide the colonies with that portion of their revenue that they now derive from duties on imports from the other parts of the Empire,

† A friend of mine, a merchant of Montreal, has suggested that these expenses should rather be apportioned according to the amount of trade of the several countries. If this were the basis, Canada's share would be exactly \$6,000,000.

if no other system can be found, a moderate *ad valorem* customs duty should be collected on certain classes of imports, and an equivalent excise duty on the same articles produced in the colony. That free trade or the same minimum revenue impost should be offered to every nation of the globe. But if any other nation refused to accord us the freedom of its markets, a prohibitive duty should be imposed on its produce with power to the government by order in council to abolish such duty so soon as that nation was ready to grant us admission to its markets on the same terms as its own subjects or citizens. This would be the most favored nation clause in commercial treaties. If for a time the colonies were unable to supply one another and the English market, or England to supply the colonies, it would, of course, be necessary provisionally to modify this system, so as to admit the produce of foreign protective nations but only upon payment of a smaller or larger duty, always discriminating in favor of the inhabitants of the Empire.

Let us examine this system in detail, taking it in its less rigorous and more practicable form of something less than total exclusion of foreign produce, though I shall continue to use the word Prohibitive, merely to denote the duty to be imposed. And let us first take up the question of how to raise our revenue, namely the \$14,000,000 required for Imperial purposes, the \$10,000,000 now collected on imports from the United Kingdom, \$1,000,000 on imports from the other colonies, and \$12,000,000 on imports from foreign countries. The total amount of revenue to be raised would thus be in the neighbourhood of \$37,000,000. The first way in which this might be done under Mr. Bourne's scheme, is by a revenue customs and excise duty on certain classes of merchandise. This should be imposed on as small a number of articles as possible, consistently with the raising of the revenue. It would be collected, first, on articles imported from the rest of the Empire, and from other nations with which free trade relations should have been established: Secondly, on the same articles produced in our own country; and thirdly, in addition to the prohibitive duty, on imports from nations that maintain protective duties against us.

(To be continued.)

McGill News.

THE freshmen in medicine have refused to pay their footing.

A. H. V. COLQUHOUN has been elected unanimously valedictorian for the Graduating Class in Arts.

THE Maritime Association will meet on Wednesday evening, Dec. 3rd, at 7.30 P.M., in the English Lecture room, Arts building. All persons interested are cordially invited.

THE total number of students entered in the freshman classes of McGill University this Session is 195, distributed among the different faculties as follows: Medicine 88; Arts, male, 57, female 25; Applied Science 16; Law 9.