

time it has been truly said that a supply of food is necessary for all nations, and particularly to our own, and while alluding to those circumstances which prevent me from feeling so apprehensive as some of my friends may be on the subject, still, I feel that we are greatly indebted to the deputation from Canada for bringing this question prominently before us. I have always thought that one of the great reasons for establishing some such a League as this, for endeavouring to bring together the different parts of the Empire into closer relations, has been that we cannot quite foresee at what point we may be threatened, and where the next difficulty may arise. We are told to-day that it is likely to be on the North American continent. That may be, and if so it might be difficult to induce our fellow-countrymen in South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand to see the great importance of contributing to prevent danger in such a remote part of the world. We ought to provide against danger of this sort by organising our forces and making our strength as well adapted for use as possible before the danger arises, and before we see what part of the Empire is likely to be threatened, and what part the most easily defended. We have had congratulations as to the progress of this League, and certainly I think that Sir Charles Tupper or Colonel Denison, or any other friend here to-day, would scarcely have ventured to hope a few years or even months ago that we should be in the position we are. That we are so is due to the encouragement we receive from the colonies, and especially from Canada. That is another reason why I would welcome our friends to-day. I think we should be probably agreed as to two of the suggestions they have made. As to the third, I have ventured to make a few observations, not with any idea of minimising their suggestion, but simply because we are met here for consultation and to point out the different aspects of the case as they present themselves to us. I have very much pleasure in suggesting that we pass a