Figures like these are far from arousing my sympathy. They do not, by themselves, prove poverty or distress.

But, possibly, the public debt has grown so enormously in later years that that feature may alter the aspect of affairs. To those who think so, the following table may bring assurance.

Gross debt 1854	£802,000,000
1857 (nearly)	837,000,000
1899	635,000,000
1903	798,000,000
1911 (*a*)	733,000,000

Th increase in 1857 was due to the Crimean war in defence of Turkey, as to which Lord Salisbury's aid that "we put our money on the wrong horse." The increase in 1903 was due to the Boer war which cost in money alone, over $1,200,000,000, and resulted in placing the Boers in political control of four states instead of two. Had those two foolish wars never taken place the British national debt would not be more than one-half of what it is. In the last five years, the debt has not only been increased, but it has actually been diminished by nearly £56,000,000.

But is not the naval expenditure so enormous that British Chancellors of the Exchequer are at their wits end? Not in the least. On the contrary, the expenditure upon both army and navy is paid out of the ordinary revenue of the nation, and last year there was a surplus, after payment of everything, of £6,545,000. Comparason of the expenditure of the United Kingdom upon her army and navy with that of Germany and France (who spend money upon their colonies rather than ask for subscriptions from them) will hardly prove the case of the Imperialists. Look at the following:

United Kingdom—		
Army	£27,690,000	
Navy	44,392,500	£72,082,500
Germany—		
Army (*b*)	£40,814,500	
Navy	22,901,700	£63,716,200
France—		
Army	£36,767,138	
Navy	17,070,321	£53,837,459

(a) The net debt is arrived at by deducting from the above figure £37,606,000, the value of the Suez canal shares; other property, £4,003,098; Exchequer balances £13,546,172; besides public buildings, lands, etc. £170,000,000. Whittaker's Almanac, 1912, p. 487. Statistical Journal, 1906, p. 722.

(b) In addition to expenditure upon colonial defence.