

3rd. Permanently Embodied Militia and Educational Establishments, *i.e.*, Schools of Gunnery and Royal Military College.

4th. Armament and Supply.

5th. Canadian Contingent for Imperial Service and Military Colonization.

Part I.—STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHY.

Before deciding on what are the strategic points of most importance, and the measures that should be adopted for defence, it is necessary to consider what aggressive operations an enemy would probably undertake, and the natural base and lines of his operations, as well as our own facilities for concentration. I have not taken note of the wilderness between Lake Superior and the Pacific; as it can scarcely be said to contain a military objective, an army could not exist in it, and in any case we could not defend it, unless the Canadian Pacific Railway is constructed. From the North Pole we need fear no aggression, our brave Canadians would find only allies in the resistless cohorts of Field-Marshal Frost as they sweep across the desolate plains to meet the southern invader; unfortunately our flanks are not so secure, resting on Atlantic and Pacific seabords, for though Britannia may be said in music-hall parlance to rule the waves, we cannot entirely imagine ourselves to have a monopoly of the water-ways of the world. Captain Colomb, in the able papers he has from time to time read in this Institution, has only too clearly proved to us that the police of the ocean, as carried out by the swarms of cruisers in the days of Nelson, or by the swift wooden steamers of a later date (which require numerous and secure coaling stations, more especially if coal armour is practicable), must be considered from a very different point of view when the British Fleet consists of our somewhat cumbrously floating castles of iron, the available number of which for Pacific or transatlantic service might be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Pacific Seaboard.

We must therefore consider the high seas as a base of operations common to ourselves and our possible enemies, who have moreover a secondary base on the continent, which we roughly call British North America, *i.e.*, Alaska, the slice with which the one Eagle accommodated the other, perhaps with the prospect of a future carcass in that locality. Our inadequately protected coaling station at Vancouver is much nearer such secondary bases, on the Pacific shore of Asiatic Russia, as well as the harbours of Oregon and California, to say nothing of others along the 600 or 700 miles of coast where we have no foothold that could be utilized by a *soi disant* neutral Power, when certain complications have necessitated the concentration of our fleet in eastern rather than western waters.

During a discussion in this theatre, I was asked whether it was the duty of the Canadian or Imperial Government to defend Vancouver's Island and British Columbia, my answer on this point is not of any practical value. I can only tell you what both Governments have done