

to stand or fall along with it. The moral effect of such a deliberate pronouncement on the part of all the great self-governing colonies of the empire would be worth the cost of many Dreadnoughts. Any power planning seriously to challenge its naval supremacy or threaten any of its vital interests, would hesitate to enter on a struggle with the British Empire as a whole and its almost limitless resources throughout the world.

In no other way is it possible to defend Canada or any other portion of the empire. "It is our duty to stand for the defence of the Empire, as far as Canada is concerned," we are told. If this means that the people of Canada can best serve their own interests by keeping their own troops within their own borders, and a fleet of their own within their own waters to protect their own shores, the thing is impossible. Should that dark day ever come when the fate of the British Empire, and, therefore, of Canada is made to hang upon the issue of a campaign or a naval struggle, the decisive battle when it does take place, will not be fought upon Canadian soil or within Canadian waters. The problem for Canadians, therefore, is not primarily how to defend Canada, or for Australians, how to defend Australia, or even for the people of England, how to defend it merely, from attack. *It is impossible to secure effective defence by each part of the Empire caring only for itself, even were it able.* The only way for each to secure even itself is to do its part in strengthening the whole. And the supreme need of the hour, therefore, is a fleet, actually and potentially of such overwhelming strength as to make the empire in all its parts invulnerable.

In wealth and population the outlying portions of the Empire have grown by leaps and bounds, each developing