

war 20,000,000 men carried by the Mercantile Marine or Military transports; 2,000,000 horses and mules and 500,000 vehicles; 25,000,000 tons of explosives; 52,000,000 tons of oil and fuel; 130,000,000 tons of food and other materials.

Not Canada, Australia, South Africa, India and other British lands alone, but the United States of America as well, depended upon our Navy. The gratitude of our friends to the South of the boundary line was signally expressed on "Britain's Day," Saturday, Dec. 7th, 1918. No Britisher ever testified more eloquently to the valour and service of his Navy than did the foremost men in the United States on that great day. But for the Navy, indeed, who can tell how far and into what lands the campaign of German frightfulness would have been carried. At least we know that but for Britain's Navy our commerce would have been swept from the sea, and our portals on the Pacific and Atlantic would have been at the mercy of a cruel and relentless enemy.

British Naval expenses prior to 1914 reached gigantic figures which became larger and larger as the War-years rolled on, and this titanic burden fell on the Motherland. It was borne without a single request for the co-operation of any of her Dominions. This burden, carried during the war, increased to such an extent that it would have paralyzed any other Power except, possibly, the United States, and in the case of that country while it had the money, it was not otherwise prepared, and could not have coped with the gigantic necessities of the moment.

Time was, and not so long ago, when some of our countrymen in the Dominion looked askance at any proposal to strengthen this great arm of our defence, but the four years of war have left few men unconvinced as to the value of the Navy to Canada.

To our people, indeed, the freedom of the seas is absolutely essential and the Navy has so preserved our freedom of trade and export, as well as industrial and agricultural development, that Canada has been able to bear her share of the great War's burden and yet enjoy at the same time a fair amount of prosperity.

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