

Excellency move to have the matter brought to the attention of the Home Government in order that the plan may be thoroughly discussed.

Mr. Wickham's proposition is one which should, it seems to us, command the attention of all Canadians, for it touches vitally the maritime interests of this country.

As matters stand at present, it appears that only those who are in a position to go to England to be enrolled can be enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve service. The result of this is obviously to restrict the membership of that body to inhabitants of the British Isles; for although there is no objection made to Canadian seamen, or other citizens of the Empire, joining this Reserve—in fact, they are invited to do so—the conditions governing the installation of them are such as to be practically prohibitory. One of the things advocated is the removal of the difficulties that now stand in the way of colonial seamen becoming members of the Royal Naval Reserve. Again, it is pointed out in the memorial that the British mercantile marine is at present manned to the extent of forty per cent. of its numbers by cheap foreign seamen; and, as the mercantile marine is expected to play an important part in the next naval war, the system of placing vessels of this type under the partial control of the Imperial Admiralty, in the way that other nations are doing, and manning them with loyal subjects whose sympathies are in union with the welfare of the Empire, and who might be counted on to respond in times of danger, is one that should command the attention of all who have the welfare of their country at heart. For, notwithstanding the fact that we in America are essentially a commercial people, and are inclined to "pooh-pooh" the idea of war and the glories that are supposed to attend it, we have to face the question of possible contingencies and endeavor to meet impending calamity. The surest means of securing peace is to place ourselves in a position to command it; and if we are able to do this we ensure our commercial interests against disaster.

In the adoption of the plan that is brought forward, therefore, it will be

seen that by utilizing the energy now going to waste an improved system of defence would be provided at no extra cost to ourselves, that Colonial and Imperial maritime interests would be drawn closer together, and that work would be secured, within our own control, for our sailors who are now drifting into foreign service. These considerations are indeed worthy of reflection.

HALL CAINE'S WORD comes to us from the PROPOSED Isle of Man that Mr. Hall VISIT. Caine is likely to pay another visit to Canada shortly. This time he is to visit us, however, not as the representative of a body of English authors sent to treat with our publishers upon the troublesome copyright question, but as the entertainer—with those subtle powers he so readily commands—of our imaginations in a delightfully novel form of lecture entertainment.

The great author has recently returned to his home from a tour in Scotland, where he appeared before large audiences in the rôle of a story teller. Instead of the usual lecture, Mr. Hall Caine told a story lasting about an hour and a half. This was neither a recital nor a reading, but an improvisation—that is, so far as was practicable with the requirements of copyright against reproduction or dramatization. The plan was a great success, and we understand Mr. Hall Caine has been induced to make an American and Australian tour in the new rôle.

Those Canadians who had the pleasure of meeting him when he was here before, representing interests opposed to their own, will recall his marked ability as a diplomat, and rejoice in the opportunity of renewing a warm friendship which, in many cases, the author converted out of a cold acquaintance before his mission was concluded a year ago; and those book lovers who were not privileged to come in contact with him then will have the chance of making the acquaintance, on a public platform, of the man who has caused them to feel so much through his writings.

We bespeak Mr. Hall Caine a splendid welcome by the Canadian people everywhere.