

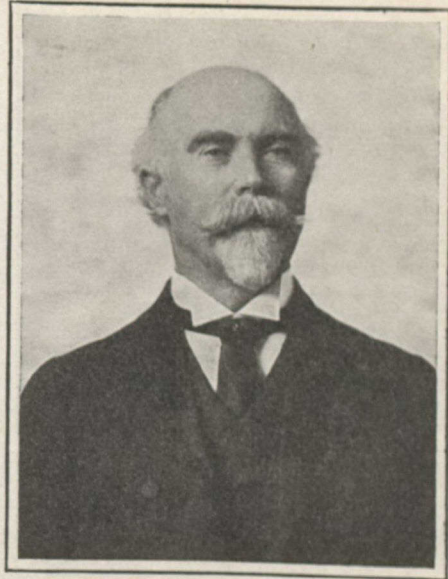
if we do not unanimously agree to make sacrifices, and the longer these are delayed the worse it is going to become." Such remarks touch the fringe only, of course, of the complex question of inter-imperial relations, but they will not be without value in shaping the frame of mind in which at no distant date the people of Canada must face a duty which is becoming yearly more pressing.

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The difficulties encountered in approaching the subject are tremendous. Hardly two opinions offered concerning it agree. The special menace at the moment, for instance, real or imaginary, is still the possibility of a German *coup* on Britain, a contingency which many distinguished men in that country believe to be very real and imminent, and one that can be averted only by incessant watchfulness and increasing strength on the part of Britain. The *Montreal Star*, heartily concurring in the suggestion that Canada should do more than she is doing in the matter of imperial defence, suggests that we should prepare "a really effective army corps, which might, were the motherland threatened with invasion, be swiftly transported thither to help man her sea coasts." The crux of the situation is that in the event of a German descent on England there would be no preliminary threatening, any further than we see and hear at the present time. The thing would be done in a flash or it would not be done at all. An army corps which would have to be carried over from the Dominion would be useless in such a case. Against a sudden invasion England must be protected by the ships around her shores and the men within her borders.

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The *Star* says enthusiastically that "the spectacle of troops pouring into the British Isles from Canada would have a splendid moral effect on the



HON. SENATOR KERR, THE NEW SPEAKER OF
THE DOMINION SENATE

continent of Europe"; but such a spectacle could not be seen once German troops had evaded British ships and overwhelmed British troops, and if it came then to a mere count of heads it must be remembered that Germany's population vastly outnumbered that of Great Britain and Canada and that her trained soldiers are as ten to one compared with what Britain and Canada could unitedly put in the field. As to Canada sending men to take part with Britain in a continental war, one would not care to say it could never be necessary or desirable, but such a possibility is too remote, too directly in opposition to the general Canadian outlook, to enter into present day calculations. It is on her navy that Great Britain must depend most of all for her defence, and Canada must find some way either of assisting the mother country to bear the crushing financial burden of the great sea armaments that protect the Empire in guarding Britain, or of affording otherwise, and it may be elsewhere, a substantial relief to the imperial responsibilities of the people