

route at the expense of the community. The country where the largest number of these routes converge will be the most prosperous by its industry and its commerce. The flag which the most rapidly and the most economically performs its transport duties will have the advantage over all the others. Premiums on speed are advocated instead of premiums on tonnage. He says, "Let us insist on this commercial truth—one of the highest importance: the speed of ships has the precious faculty of multiplying the productiveness of floating capital; it is consequently one of the most powerful elements which make for wealth." "Anyone can understand the importance of constituting a commercial navy, composed of swift ships, in order to have under our hand in time of war ships capable of cruising and forming blockades." If Canada is to maintain her maritime position amongst the nations of the world, there is one conclusion which must be forced upon the mind of everyone who reads Captain Mahan's book, and it is, that, independently of all other considerations, Canada's welfare as a sea-power is indissolubly mixed up with that of the mother country. As a powerful and efficient navy is a necessary adjunct to a numerous mercantile marine, so must a numerous and powerful mercantile marine form the reserve from which an effective navy can be forthcoming. And when we further consider that Great Britain already possesses those resting places and coaling stations necessary for the due protection and convenience of commerce in all parts of the world, ready to hand so to speak, and which no other nation possesses, how suicidal, from self-interested motives only, would be a policy looking towards independence, which would involve the abandonment of, I may say, practically all these advantages.

To be in a position, at all events, to speculate upon the line of action which would probably be taken by an enemy, let us pass briefly in review the present constitution of the two most powerful of the European Navies.

Great Britain, according to Secretary Herbert's report just published, has :

<i>Armoured.</i>	<i>In Service.</i>	<i>Building.</i>
Battleships.....	43	10
Coast defence vessels.....	12	..
Cruisers.....	18	..
	—	—
	73	10
FRANCE.		
Battleships.....	18	12
Coast defence vessels.....	21	1
Cruisers.....	4	7
	—	—
	43	20