

what Germany is able to pay, when in the same breath you have to admit that you do not know what she can pay, or what her position will be. You do not know whether she will gird herself economically or not. You do not know into what shreds or patches she will be torn; yet you make a positive assertion, and, in answer to the question, "How much can she be made to pay?" you say £24,000,000,000. I see no grounds for that whatever. We ourselves got none in the evidence, and we give no substantial grounds for it.

MR. HEWINS: What sum do you want to put in?

SIR GEORGE FOSTER: I do not want to bind myself to a sum which I honestly cannot stand to as being on a reasoned basis.

MR. HEWINS: Have you any sum in your mind?

SIR GEORGE FOSTER: No, I have not; neither would I fix a sum. I think we have gone far enough when we say that in our opinion—and I am firm in that—in justice we should demand that the whole costs of the war should be paid by the enemy Powers; but it may possibly be that the enemy Powers are not able to pay that, and cannot pay it under conditions that the world will tolerate as being carried on over ten, twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty years with 80 or 90 millions of people, with all the contingencies that would be necessary in order to work it out over that period of time, taken in conjunction with the fact that you have cut off her legs and her arms, and taken away a very substantial portion of her body.

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11. *Memorandum by War Office on Contribution of Overseas Dominions towards Army of Occupation in Germany*

SECRET No. 25  
G.T. 6459

London, December 11, 1918

1. In a paper already circulated to the War Cabinet (o.1/183/525) were summarized the probable commitments of the British Empire in regard to Armies of Occupation, amounting to from 14 to 20 Divisions overseas, apart from peace garrisons at home and abroad amounting to not less than 300,000.

2. The provision of the numbers required will obviously throw a great strain on the resources of Great Britain. The great Overseas Dominions have shared with the British Army the vicissitudes and glories of the various campaigns now successfully concluded and I hope that they will equally be ready to participate in the irksome but necessary duties of garrisoning occupied territory. Without such occupation the fruits of victory, for which they have made such sacrifices, will not be gathered.

3. I would propose that the period of occupation should be considered in two stages as follows:

(a) The period of partial demobilization during which time the troops of overseas Dominions should be repatriated as ships are available with