

can be obtained without cost to any institution if providing its Cadets with a uniform which may be as economical as other clothing, provided the cut and color are in accordance with utility and durability. The Cadets of the High School, Montreal, appeared at the Review on Her Majesty's Birthday at Quebec in a neat uniform of Canadian homespun.

Principals of Colleges are requested to give early notice to Deputy Adjutant Generals of Districts during the present holiday season to admit of the necessary arrangements being made at the re-opening of Colleges, &c.

* Defence of Great and Greater Britain.

Extract from Gazette, 12th September, 1879.

DOWNING STREET, September 9th, 1879.

The Queen has been pleased to issue a Commission under Her Majesty's Royal Sign Manual to the effect following.—

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Whereas we have thought it expedient, for divers good causes and considerations, that a Commission should forthwith issue to enquire into the condition and sufficiency of the means both naval and military, provided for the defence of the more important sea-ports within our Colonial Possessions and their dependencies, and of the stations established or required within our said possessions and dependencies for coaling, refitting, or repairing the ships of our Navy, and for the protection of the commerce of our Colonies with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with each other, and with foreign countries:

And whereas it is expedient to consider and determine in which of our stations and ports it is desirable, on account of their strategical or commercial importance, to provide an organized system of defence, in addition to such general protection as can be afforded by our Naval forces; and whether such defence should consist of permanent works manned by garrisons of Imperial or local troops, or both combined, or of any local naval organization or other armaments or appliances:

And whether it is desirable to consider whether, and in what proportions, the cost of such measures of defence should be divided between the Imperial Government and the Colonies to which they relate, or should be wholly defrayed by the Imperial Government or by the Colonies:

Now know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, knowledge and ability, do by these presents authorize and appoint you the said Henry Howard Molyneux, Earl of Carnarvon, Hugh Culling Eardley Childers, Sir Henry Thurstan Holland, Sir Alexander Milne, Sir John Lintorn Arabin Simmons, Sir Henry Barkly, Thomas Brassey, and Robert George Crookshank Hamilton to be our Commissioners for the purpose of such enquiries as aforesaid, and that you may offer such suggestions as may seem to you meet as to the best means (regard being had to the works completed and in progress, and to the ordinary number of our naval and military forces voted by Parliament) of providing for the defence and protection of our Colonial Possessions and commerce as aforesaid, special attention being given to the necessity of providing safe coaling, refitting, and repairing stations in such of our Colonial Possessions and their dependencies as you may deem best suited for the requirements of our fleet and mercantile marine in time of war.

* The Defence of Great and Greater Britain.—Sketches of its Naval, Military and Political aspect.—Captain J. C. R. Colomb, F. R. G. S. Edward Stanford, London.

INTRODUCTORY.

Capt. Colomb, in his introduction, says:—

For the first time in the history of our Empire we are about to inquire—How to defend it? The fact of our taking such a great and unprecedented step has as yet attracted but little notice.

It is possible the larger portion of "the public" do not know that there is an intimate and indissoluble connection between the state of the defences of particular colonial ports (respecting which the Commission is to inquire) and the personal safety of the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland. Did the people of the United Kingdom believe this public inquiry concerned their own individual interests so closely, the announcement of the Commission would, doubtless, have at once received a warmer welcome. It is, therefore, unhappily necessary to explain that, according to the terms of the Commission, its fundamental object may be thus shortly expressed:—

1. To inquire and report on the steps necessary to adopt, to ensure that in war the people of these islands shall not be starved into submission, and that the communications of Great with Greater Britain shall not be cut.

2. To consider how the burden of cost resulting from taking these necessary steps should be apportioned between Great and Greater Britain.

The primary question then to be investigated by this Commission and with which the text of the following chapter deals, the reader is warned that the views so put forth rest upon the assumption that we are an Empire, and that it is essential not only to "British interests," but to the civilization and peace of the world, we should remain so. It may, in the eyes of some, be almost a crime to use the word Empire to describe the British position: it may even be a matter of opinion whether, in a political sense, the aggregate of colonial interests over which Queen Victoria reigns can be properly described by the word Empire, but it is a matter of fact that, taking the mother country and her colonies together, no other word than Empire describes our geographical position.

In 1859, we fancied that France furnished a model for British defensive necessities; in 1866, we fancied it had become a question whether Prussia did not furnish a better. Sedan firmly established the fancy that Germany was the best; but 1879 brings before us the fact that Germany has no Greater Germany, and that we are not prepared to protect our commerce, not even to guard the food supply of these two little islands in war.

Not till our war forces are re-organized in a manner perfectly adapted to the necessities of our Empire—exceptionally situated essentially different from all others in the world—can that great auditor History, "write off" what has been wasted on popular military delusions. Even now, who can accurately estimate what our French, Prussian, and German "fancies" have cost us, though all are aware we have uncommonly little, if anything at all, to show for them?

Turning to the next problem submitted to the Commission,—viz the distribution of the cost of measures necessary, for Imperial safety between Great and Greater Britain.

It may be fairly described as a constitutional "Gordian knot," which has taken busy British brains, working in all four quarters of the world, more than a century to tie. They have done their work so well that now only the sword of representation can ever cut it.

If Greater Britain's resources are to be at the disposal of the Empire, she cannot be debarred from taking her place in its councils. The real question at issue, therefore, is this:—Is Great Britain, with increasing pauperism and, relatively, decreasing trade, prepared to face the future with its accumulating Imperial responsibilities, but without relatively accumulating power at command to meet them?

If she is not, then she must either wriggle out of her responsibilities as best she may, or go honestly into a real partnership with Greater Britain, and abandon the theory that she alone has the brains and money necessary to carry on an Imperial business both in peace and war. Delay in coming to terms will not diminish the responsibilities of Great Britain, but will increase the resources and the power of Greater Britain, and therefore procrastination only tends to make it more to the advantage of Great Britain, and less to the benefit of Greater Britain, to form such partnership. In any case, Greater Britain will have many words to say on the subject, indeed has much to say now, even on that one aspect of the question—defence. It was, therefore, of extreme importance to let Greater Britain, by means of these notes, speak in the words of its own press direct to the reader of the text. Their distinct utterances will sufficiently warn him that Imperial Defence cannot be settled on any lasting basis simply by naval and military science, and they forbid the vain hope that the Royal Commission—in the composition of which the principle of Colonial Representation is excluded—can do more than suggest to Greater Britain what she has a clear right not to accept, and what Great Britain would, were the positions reversed, certainly reject, viz to pay bills for war purposes without any control over the items, nor any voice in the question which rules the total—peace or war?

It is to be hoped that the Royal Commission now sitting is but a preliminary investigation, a preparation for such measures as shall draw together Great and Greater Britain by a closer and more enduring tie.

THE NAVY AND COLONIES.

There is but too much reason to fear that neither the Navy nor the Colonies command at present sufficient popular attention. In 1859, public opinion awoke to the unpalatable conviction that—in the words of the Royal Commission—"The nation cannot be considered as secured against invasion if depending for its defence on the fleet alone." This "Royal Commission on the National Defence of the United Kingdom," in 1859, broke down some of our most cherished and time-honored popular beliefs and prejudices. It may be useful, to