

obvious that, other things being equal, a country with a population of thirty-six millions, such as Great Britain and Ireland, is a more powerful state than one with a population of four millions, such as Holland.

There is also a small advantage derived from the constant stream of British colonists returning home to spend in the mother country the wealth they have earned in its colonies, in this minor point the tropical colonies are proportionately more valuable than those in temperate climates, as from the former, the Anglo-Saxons must not only return home themselves from time to time if they wish to preserve their health, but they must also send home their children to be educated and reared, and remit money on their account.

As regards the absolute physical strength of the State, reckoned by its fighting power, in men and money they also as I have said assist, not only by enabling Great Britain itself to maintain a larger population, but they may be also be made available, to what extent we shall never realise until a real necessity arises, as recruiting grounds, at least so far as to neutralise the drain they cause in this direction in times of comparative peace, and although it is open to dispute whether an Indian or negro regiment may be good for much if placed in line against Europeans, they are good as against one another, or against other less highly-disciplined races, and the system which we already to some extent adopt of garrisoning one province or country from another, is capable of a much greater extension if it should ever be necessary to use for action elsewhere the services of every available British soldier.

Therefore, though taken as a whole, and from a direct military point of view, the Crown Colonies are no doubt rather a cause of weakness than of strength to the other parts of the Empire, yet in other ways they contribute materially to the prosperity of the whole, and since the danger of rebellion may be reduced to a minimum by good government and a sufficient reserve of force, there is little to urge against the most part of them, except their liability to attack from external foes.

No doubt in the event of war with another naval Power, the defence of our tropical colonies would prove, at least for a time, a source of much anxiety to the authorities, and some of them might even be taken, their fate, however, would ultimately depend on the general issue of the war, if we were successful, they would, if not previously recovered, be demanded back, and of course returned.