

and when have ever 'the blossom-fed Lotophagi' done anything for the race? The most successful attempt has been in the English West Indies, but commercial conditions have been adverse, and to-day the negro may be said to possess the islands where the white man lives it is true, but hardly thrives. No, it has been found in the past, and it will be found in the future, that the men of mettle, the men who have made the world their Odyssey, have been reared in Ithaca's 'rugged Isle of hardy youths, a nurse of name'. It is good for man to have the 'rebuff that turns earth's smoothness rough', and this is not what he gets amid the fascination and fertility of the tropics, which, as Homer says, breeds—

A race

Of proud-lived loiterers that never sow
Nor put a plant in earth, nor use a plow,
But trust in God for all things.

When Isaiah was discussing the burden of Babylon, the burden of Tyre, and the burden of Egypt, I wonder what he would have said could his prophetic eye have glanced at the map on which is depicted the burden of the British Empire. Surely no nation in history has ever had such a load of responsibility. But fit as it has been in the past it will ever be fit so long as *salus populi* remains *suprema lex*. It only behoves us to see that we are well equipped for the second great task—the task of the future, to give to the teeming millions of our dependencies that greatest of all blessings in life, good health.