

ment, no ocean, no clime, from the icy polar wastes to the sweltering jungles of the tropics, is without its British patch. Our people seem to have taken samples of territory all over the world. They seem also to have taken their samples in equal proportions from the northern and from the southern hemisphere. In the northern hemisphere the United Kingdom, Canada, and India occupy between them some five million square miles; in the southern hemisphere Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa cover about the same area.

Now this is very important, especially for the Old Country, which depends largely upon the rest of the Empire for its food-supplies. We know that the northern and southern hemispheres have their seasons reversed. Thus one half of the Empire is enjoying summer while the other half has winter. While the land lies cold and bare in the northern hemisphere, it is yielding its harvest in the southern. It is always harvest-time somewhere in the British Empire, and communication is now so swift and so cheap that grain, fruits, and cattle can be readily sent to Great Britain from even the most distant of her possessions.

We have also seen that this world-wide Empire is richly *varied in character and productions*. There is, indeed, no article of human need or desire that may not be obtained within its wide bounds. The British lands in the temperate zones produce grain, meat, and wool in abundance. The forests of Canada and of Australia yield stores of splendid timber, while Great Britain has those unrivalled treasures of coal and iron which lie at the root of her prosperity. Rice, cotton, tobacco, sugar, and other tropical products flourish within the Empire, and we need not seek beyond it either for the necessities of life or for its luxuries and adornments.

A glance at the map shows us that our Empire is *oceanic*. The Russian Empire consists of continuous land, but the various states of the British Empire are united by means of the sea. A great writer observes that Greater Britain resembles a world-Venice, with oceans for streets. This is a very important fact, and one that should never be forgotten.