

British traders go the world over and prepare to snatch everywhere the trade heretofore carried on by the Germans.

On the continent, according to Lord Kitchener's statement on the 25th of August, the British government has decided to send and maintain a force not to surpass 300,000 men in six months time.

Suppose those figures were doubled, and admitting that a large portion of those troops is of the very best, what is that effort in comparison with the alignment of at least 3,000,000 French soldiers, 4,000,000 Germans, 5,000,000 to 7,000,000 Russians, and even 200,000 or 300,000 Belgians?

The real contribution of Great Britain in this war is her magnificent navy: she keeps the trade routes of the world open to herself and her allies.

Principles of Imperial defence

Both in the policy pursued before the war and in the measures taken to insure the safety and prestige of the United Kingdom during the war, the British government have looked upon British interests as their sole inspiration and object.

If Canada is to assume the heaviest responsibilities of nationhood, even before she enjoys its prerogatives, she could not do better than to follow the example of England.

The first duty of the Canadian Government in this crisis was therefore to consider the supreme interests of Canada, without ignoring, of course, the obligations arising from the suzerainty exercised by the United Kingdom over all British possessions.

Those obligations are not derived from a mere theory in constitutional law: they have been clearly defined by the Imperial authorities in 1854, in 1862, and at various other times. They form the basis of a well understood agreement between the British and Canadian governments.

Under the terms of that agreement, never cancelled, never amended, the United Kingdom, having exclusive control of the foreign policy of the Empire, is bound to provide alone for its general defence; and the colonies, self-governing or not,

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