

to manufacturing industries; less and less does Britain herself produce the food for her own people. To some this seems a serious danger, but as long as she can by her naval power command sea communications, and, in consequence, supplies, her position is secure.

11. GREATER BRITAIN

The divisions of the Empire.—The British Empire of to-day is a loose union of a large number of states, scattered over the whole surface of the earth. It includes India, almost a continent, with an ancient civilization, and with many different peoples united under the king as emperor, and ruled by a viceroy named by the British cabinet. On the other hand, the Empire includes regions for a long time unpeopled, except by a few barbaric natives, but now in course of settlement by Britons, retaining in their new homes the right of self-government; such regions are Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and parts of South Africa. The remaining British possessions are chiefly scattered islands; some, like the West Indian islands, of considerable extent, others, like Malta and St. Helena, held by Britain chiefly as coaling stations and harbours of refuge for the use of her warships and her merchant marine.*

* The population of the British Empire may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. Population almost entirely of European origin:

England and Wales (in 1911)	36,075,269
Scotland "	4,759,445
Ireland "	4,381,951
Canada "	7,200,000
Australia, without aborigines (estimated)	4,200,000
South Africa (estimated)	1,210,000
New Zealand (estimated)	1,000,000
Malta (estimated)	210,000
Europeans in India (estimated)	100,000
West Indies and Bermuda (estimated)	100,000
Gibraltar (estimated)	29,000
Other parts of the Empire, say	34,335
	<hr/> 59,300,000