

How poor is such a spirit when compared with that of the great leaders in the Confederation movement. "The time has come," said the Hon. George Brown, even then, "when Britain will insist on a re-consideration of the military relations which a great colony like Canada ought to hold to the Empire. And I am free to admit that it is a fair and just demand. It is only fair and right that Canada give its quota to the defence of the Empire." Compare the clear, unhesitating ring of words like these, which I doubt not even yet express the feeling of the country, with the halting, half-hearted, guarded utterances of some leaders of the present day.

For, it is no question of helping England merely. It is curious to note the mental attitude of some in the discussion of this question. They speak as if it were simply a question of our duty to the mother country in the hour of danger. This is to regard the subject from the wrong point of view. For, as Mr. Chamberlain has said: "The Empire is now, undoubtedly, not the Empire of England, but the Empire of the world." The question is not, therefore, shall Canada help England? any more than it would be for the citizens of Montreal or Toronto to ask whether they would stand by British Columbia if Vancouver were threatened by a hostile squadron from Japan demanding an indemnity for some outrage on its citizens. The real question is this: are we prepared to take up our fair share of the burden of defence of an empire which is more than England, or Canada, or any other of the Dominions beyond the seas—a whole, that is, which at once includes and transcends them all in the unity of common interests and ideals? No satisfactory answer can be given which regards it from any other point of view.