

be an unwise war, but an impossible one. In the circumstances under which the people of Britain and the people of the United States live, Great Britain could, I presume, strike tremendous blows at the finances and trade of the United States; but, even if victorious on all points of the ocean, even if successful in blockading every American port, Great Britain could never invade the territory of the United States and could never starve the American people; whilst a victorious England, blockading the ports of the United States, unable to stop the Americans from cutting communications between Western Canada and Europe, and from closing the Panama Canal, treaty or no treaty—we know what becomes of the letter of treaties in time of war—a victorious England, deprived at once of American and Canadian wheat, would be at the mercy of the American people before three months were over, because she would be starved to death. British statesmen are truly patriotic when they do all they can to avoid all difficulties with the American government.

But, as a Canadian, the conclusion I draw therefrom is this: If the British people, on account of their peculiar position, are unwilling or unable, or unwilling because unable, to stand by Canada against the United States,—the only country which can seriously threaten the peace and liberty of Canada,—I say, let us pause a little before we put upon our shoulders the burden of going and “protecting” Great Britain against Germany or other powers, whose relations with Great Britain have been framed by British Statesmen without any consultation with the people of Canada.

IMPERIAL RESPONSABILITIES

Whatever one's opinion may be as to the merits of the foreign policy of Great Britain during the last century, there is one point on which there can be not doubt. Whether good or bad, whether the result of bad statesmanship or of uncontrollable circumstances, that policy is entirely and exclusively in the hands of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in Great Britain, respon-