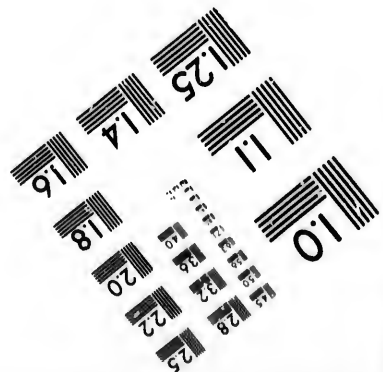
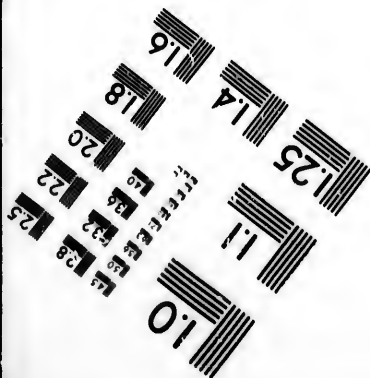
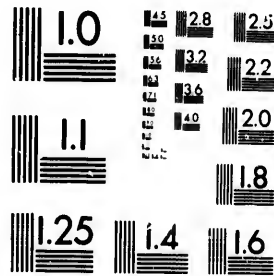


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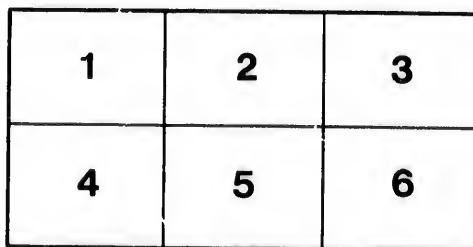
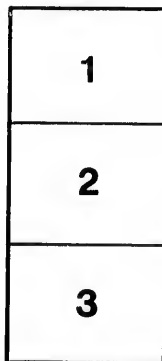
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DEPUTATION

TO THE

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY,

ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27th, 1898.

IN REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF THE DESIRABILITY  
OF COLONIAL SEAMEN BEING ENROLLED IN THE  
ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE.

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OFFICES :

112 CANNON STREET, LONDON.

1898.

Library of Parliament

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THE  
**BRITISH EMPIRE LEAGUE.**

—♦—  
DEPUTATION  
TO THE  
FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY,  
*ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27th, 1898.*

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A large and influential deputation from the British Empire League was received on Wednesday, July 27, 1898, by the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, in reference to the question of the desirability of Colonial seamen being enrolled in the Royal Naval Reserve. Accompanying Mr. Goschen were Rear-Admiral Sir F. Bedford, Captain Hawkes, R.N., Mr. Graham Green, and Mr. Bramble, R.N.

The deputation was introduced by Sir Robert Herbert, G.C.B., and those present included Sir James Blyth, Bart., Edward Bond, M.P., S. B. Boulton, Sir John Bramston, K.C.M.G., C.B., Lord Brassey, K.C.B., Dr. Cockburn (Agent-General for South Australia), W. Herbert Daw, Hon. Sir Charles Fremantle, K.C.B., E. F. G. Hatch, M.P., W. Becket Hill, Dr. W. Culver James, G. L. Johnston, Henry Kimber, M.P., Lieut.-Gen. J. Wimburn Laurie, M.P., Canon Knox Little, the Right Hon. Lord Loch, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Dr. G. B. Longstaff, Herman W. Marcus, Hon. William Mulock (Postmaster-General of Canada), Henry Norman, Hon. Sir David Tennant, K.C.M.G. (Agent-General for Cape Colony), and C. Freeman Murray (Secretary).

Sir ROBERT HERBERT said: In the absence of the Duke of Devonshire, the President of the British Empire League, who feels a great interest in the question of the enrolment of Colonial seamen in the Royal Naval Reserve, we had hoped that Sir John Lubbock would have been present to introduce this deputation, but for some cause or other he is unable to be with us, and I may add that the exigences of the expiring season have prevented a great many of our most conspicuous vice-presidents and members of the Council of the League from being here to-day. I will not trouble you by reading their letters, but I may say that we have letters expressing regret at their inability to be present from the Duke of Westminster, the Earl of Crewe, the Earl of Hopetoun, the Earl of Jersey, the Earl of Kintore, Mr. Sydney Buxton, M.P., Sir Frank Forbes Adam, Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., Rear-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., Sir George Bowen, Professor S. H. Butcher, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Andrew Clarke, Mr. F. C. Danson, the Hon. Sydney Fisher (Canadian Minister of Agriculture), Sir Malcolm Fraser, Sir William Houldsworth, M.P., Mr. Thos. H. Ismay, Mr. Alfred L. Jones, Sir Edward Russell, Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, Lord Stratheona, Sir Thomas Sutherland, M.P., Sir Charles Tupper, Cardinal Vaughan, Lord Wenlock, and Major-General Sir Francis de Winton. It has, in the circumstances I have described, devolved on me to ask you to bear with me while I introduce the matter we have in view. This is the first time the British Empire League has had occasion to come before you; and in fact, if the expression is permissible, I may say we are favourably unknown to you. We have not thought it our duty to attempt to teach any Department of the Government those things which the Government better knows how to deal with than we do. But, being in constant touch with the Colonies, we feel, if difficulties arise in matters of detail, that we may now and again be instrumental in giving assistance of an extra official character. Our *locus*

*standi* is that we were founded in 1895, on the termination of the London branch of the Imperial Federation League, as an institution to take the place of the League, almost on the same lines, but not for bringing forward the matter of political federation at the present time. I will read three lines which will indicate that part of our constitution which, we believe, justifies us in coming forward on this subject. They are these: Among other objects the League is founded "to develop the principles on which all parts of the Empire may best share in its general defence; endeavouring to bring into harmony public opinion at Home and in the Colonies on the subject, and to devise a more perfect co-operation of the Military and Naval forces of the Empire with a special view to the due protection of the trade routes." That being a part of our constitution, we think you will not consider us intrusive in asking you to hear us. During the visit of the Colonial Premiers to London last year, we (the British Empire League) had many opportunities of communicating with them on this great question of defence, and we have established very good relations with the various Governments which are co-operating with us in this matter to a considerable extent. We have obtained from these Governments very full accounts of the numbers of and the nature of the work of the seafaring population on their coasts, and these particulars will be sent to the Colonial Office. Of course, I need not remind you, Sir, that the Colonial Naval Defence Act of 1865 was passed by one of your predecessors, Mr. Childers, with the assistance of a distinguished member of our Council and executive, Sir Andrew Clarke, and therefore there will be no occasion to go to Parliament in connection with this matter, so far as legislation is concerned. That Act was passed in order to provide for the raising of a volunteer force to form part of the Royal Naval Reserve established under the Act of 1850, to be available for general service in the Royal Navy in emergency; and as it empowers any

Colony to raise and maintain a body of volunteers, entered on the terms of being bound for general service in the Royal Navy in emergency, it, of course, places power in your hands which will save you from the necessity of going to Parliament to deal with this important matter. I will not detain you further with any observations of my own. We have present to-day several gentlemen with great Colonial experience from whom I think you will be ready to hear a few words. We have here Lord Brassey, the most active member of the League in Australia at the present time. He has been from the first on our Council, and this is a subject to which he has given personal attention. Then we have with us, also, Lord Loch, who, as a former Governor of Victoria and Cape Colony, has a great knowledge of this matter, as it affects Cape Colony as well as Australia. The Hon. W. Mulock, the Postmaster-General of Canada, is here fresh from a successful co-operation with one of your colleagues in regard to postal matters, and I may add that Mr. Mulock is a very influential member of the League in Canada. Dr. Cockburn, the Agent-General for South Australia, who has lately arrived in this country, is also well worthy of your attention. South Australia, I may say, has distinguished itself among the Australian Colonies by a stronger disposition to co-operate in this matter of the enrolment of Colonial seamen in the Royal Naval Reserve than any of the others, although it has not the largest seafaring population. Not only the Premier, Mr. Kingston, and the Government as a whole, but the Press of Adelaide and of the Colony have been very enthusiastic in this matter, and it is pleasant to be able to recognise that special interest. Mr. Becket Hill, who has special business knowledge, is also with us. I will ask you first to hear Lord Brassey.

LORD BRASSEY: I am quite sure, Sir, that very few words are needed from any of us to commend the proposal for the enrolment of Colonial seamen in the Naval Reserve

to your favourable consideration. For myself, I may say that from the year 1872, when I made an extensive cruise in Canadian waters, down to the present time, I have been anxious that the great body of fishermen and seafaring men on the coast of Canada and Labrador should be in some way connected with the Royal Naval Reserve. The Canadian fishermen are as hardy specimens of manhood as are to be found in any part of the Empire, and in numbers they almost rival the great body of fishermen of the United Kingdom, to whom we look more and more to furnish the reserve for the Royal Navy. The political conditions, if any formerly existed in the way of enrolling a Naval Reserve in Canada, have, I believe, altogether disappeared, and I am sure we are all agreed that anything that can be done to bind the Mother Country and the Colonies more closely together should be done. With regard to Australia, I feel assured we there would be able to supply a body of men who would be, in time of war, available for reserve for the Royal Navy in those distant waters, and I venture to think that a proposal of that nature would be favourably received in that part of the Empire. On the general question of the Naval Reserve it is hardly necessary to insist. There can be no doubt that a permanent force such as the admirable permanent force we have in the Navy is the best force that can be provided to man Her Majesty's ships, but there is immense expense and considerable difficulty in giving the necessary sea service to a body of men sufficient to meet all the requirements of the Navy in time of war. That is a consideration which I am sure will always be kept in sight in dealing with any proposition such as that we now have the honour to submit to your notice.

Mr. GOSCHEN: I would ask those who do me the honour of addressing me to give their attention, so far as they can, to the practical carrying out of such a proposition, rather than the general principle. Lord Brassey has stated the general principle and the wish of the League

very clearly, but it is the methods that would be adopted by those who come from the Colonies and have some knowledge of it I should like to hear about—something with regard to the practical possibilities of the question. I thought, perhaps, Lord Brassey would have contributed in that direction, as I know he has studied the matter carefully.

Lord Loch: On the ground of my former connection with Australia and South Africa, I have accompanied the deputation to support the views which have been laid before you by Sir Robert Herbert. You may remember, Sir, that formerly, during the period of difficulty at Suakim, the Victorian Government offered to send a naval contingent of nearly 300 men to be placed under the command of the senior naval officer in the Red Sea, and that the other Australian Governments also offered to send contingents to be employed at Suakim. The men were thoroughly efficient, having been trained by Imperial naval officers, and although their services were not accepted at the time the good feeling was there. The men volunteered to accept the duty, and what they volunteered to do in the past no doubt they would be ready to do in the future if called upon. I think those Colonial contingents which were offered for service in the Red Sea represent a body of men which should be recognised as a valuable force for the defence of the Empire at large, and, therefore, should be included in the Naval Reserve force of the Empire. As regards the question that you, Sir, have put as to the practical working of a scheme of a Naval Reserve in the Colonies, that, I venture to say, is a matter that could be better worked out by naval officers who are acquainted with Australia and other Colonies than by, certainly, myself, as an ex-Governor of two of our Colonies. I would suggest that, if seamen were to be enlisted to form a Colonial naval reserve, there would be no difficulty in there being an inspection made periodically by the

Commander-in-Chief in those seas in order to see that the men were kept up to the proper standard of efficiency, and that the returns as to their numbers and their whereabouts should be always at the service of the Admiralty at home. I do not think there would be any great difficulty in working out the details of a scheme. In my opinion, consultation with practical officers of the Navy would result in our being able to lay a scheme before you, Sir, and before the Government, that, I trust, would be satisfactory.

Mr. GOSCHEN: Naval officers who have examined it hitherto, who are always examining it, see in it great difficulties.

Lord LOCH: Well, I should like to say this, Sir. I suppose no naval officer's name stands higher than that of the late Sir George Tryon. I have had many conversations with him on this particular subject, and he saw no difficulty in carrying out such a scheme and arranging the details of it. Of course, it is some time since these conversations took place, and the condition of things may be altered to some extent, but I believe that if there were a committee appointed to go into the question, such committee to be partly made up of naval officers and partly of members of this deputation, a scheme could be worked out which, I hope, would be considered satisfactory. At any rate the matter would then be in a concrete form before the Admiralty, and it would be for you to decide whether it was sufficient or not. At the Cape, where I also had the honour of being Governor, the conditions are somewhat different from those which exist in Australia.

Mr. GOSCHEN: Why?

Lord LOCH: Because there is no local naval force at the Cape. In Australia nearly all the Colonies have a local naval force of some kind or another. At the Cape they have none. Instead of contributing in that way towards the support of the Navy, the Cape contributes in another



way—namely, towards the military defence of South Africa. In Australia there are no Imperial troops.

MR. GOSCHEN: Thank you.

LORD BRASSEY: In consequence of what fell from you, Sir, I should like to add one sentence to my speech.

MR. GOSCHEN: I shall be very pleased. You have examined the question as much, or more, than anybody.

LORD BRASSEY: I do not see how anything practical can be done without some expenditure of Imperial money.

MR. GOSCHEN: And Colonial money too, I hope.

LORD BRASSEY: In combination. That expenditure, of course, can only be justified on the assumption that the force would satisfy proper requirements as to efficiency and be liable for service in the Imperial Navy when and where required. In support of what fell from Lord Loch I may say we have a force in Victoria very much of the type which, I should imagine, would be of service in supplementing the reserve of the Navy for manning ships in Australian waters. All that one would desire would be that that force should be more numerous, more fully drilled, and be liable to serve not only in such ships as we have in those waters, the *Cerberus* for instance, but in any ships of Her Majesty's Navy in those waters for which men might be required. Of course that might necessitate the expenditure of money by the Imperial Government.

MR. GOSCHEN: Why should it not be borne by the Colonies?

LORD BRASSEY: That is a large subject. When and as their resources increase I quite agree that they should take their full share in the burden of maintaining the defences of the Empire, but if I were to permit myself to be long, which I could not on this occasion, I think I could show that at the present time the financial resources of Australia are not such as would justify the Governments of the several Colonies in accepting that larger responsibility for expenditure for purposes of defence, which I hope in coming years they will gladly accept.

Lord Loch: I wish to say one word also on that question. All the Colonies are making a large expenditure at the present time on defence works at their harbours, and in maintaining local forces, towards which the Imperial Government contributes nothing.

Mr. Goschen: Nor do they contribute to the £7,000,000 I asked for the other day.

Lord Loch: I will only say further that I think any well-conceived scheme might fairly deserve the consideration of the Australian Governments, who, I am inclined to believe, would be willing to contribute a part of the expenditure which such a proposal as we have in view must involve.

The Hon. W. M. Lock (Postmaster-General of Canada): Mr. Goschen, I believe that the order from the chair has gone forth that the remarks of the speakers shall be limited to such as indicate in most complete detail a scheme for the successful carrying out this idea of enrolling Colonial seamen in the Royal Naval Reserve. Not being an expert I am not able, I am afraid, to comply with that order. All I can say, therefore, is that I am here with pleasure, at the request of the League, feeling sure of its patriotic and useful aims and I may add that, so far as Canada is concerned, the public sentiment there will fully sustain the object of the League. Perhaps it will be a practical observation if I say that, assuming the strength of the Naval Reserve of the Empire is of Imperial importance, Canada has a large number of men specially qualified to do service in that way. We have engaged in our fisheries—our deep sea fisheries and our inland fisheries—probably 75,000 men, most excellent material from which to draw your Naval Reserve, and although I am not here officially, but as a private citizen, I think I may say that I voice the public sentiment of Canada when I say that Canada is prepared to offer—Cornelia like—these men, her treasures, upon the altar of her country.

Mr. GOSCHEN: I beg pardon. I do not quite catch the last part of your remarks.

The Hon. W. MULLOCK: I do not think the sentence will stand repetition, if I were able to repeat it. You probably know it is an allusion to a feature of Roman history. I may say, however, that what I said was to the effect that in Canada there is splendid material available for the defence of the Empire. I see present with us my old friend, General Laurie, who has served the Empire here as well as in Canada. For some time he had the honour of representing one of the largest maritime constituencies in Canada, and it goes without saying that a large number of his constituents were fishermen. Well, he made a deep study of the conditions of their life, and I know no one better qualified to speak as to what the fishermen of Canada could do in the way of defending the interests of the Empire than General Laurie. With regard to the question put by the chair as to whether the Colonies should not bear the whole expense of maintaining the Naval Reserve, I should not care to make an observation on that point, lest in doing so I might compromise others for whom I am not authorised to speak. All I would say is that Canada will, I feel sure, cheerfully co-operate in any movement that has for its object the safety and the stability of the British Empire.

Dr. COCKBURN (Agent-General for South Australia). A request has been made for details of the scheme to carry out the wishes of the deputation. May I take the liberty of referring you, Sir, to the proposal which was made by the Premier of South Australia, Mr. Kingston, at the conference of Premiers held in London last year, and which proposal incorporated a report by Naval Commodore Creswell of South Australia, in which details of the proposed scheme are set forth at some length, supplemented in a memorandum sent also by Naval Commodore Creswell, at the request of the British Empire League, and which I believe they have received. I shall be happy

to supply you with copies of these documents. I may say, broadly speaking, as regards details, that I thoroughly endorse what has been said by Lord Brassey and Lord Loch, as far as Australia is concerned, in regard to the extension of the present arrangement. The training of seamen is no new affair in South Australia. We have already well-trained seamen—seamen trained for service on board men-of-war and whose efficiency has been the frequent subject of comment by visiting admirals who have inspected the stations. With regard to the question of the Colonies bearing the whole of the expense, I should like to point out that South Australia does not regard this solely as a matter of Colonial concern. We think, Sir—of course we are not possessed of full details with regard to possibilities—but we think it quite possible that occurrences might arise which would have for the scene of their operations the Pacific or the Eastern seas, and that to have, at the Imperial command, a body of well-trained men on the spot constantly ready to reinforce the Navy would be a matter in which particular Colonies themselves were only concerned as a part of the Empire, but it would be a matter in which the Mother Country, the Colonies, the whole Empire, would be deeply concerned, and therefore I cannot help thinking, Sir, that to expect the Colonies to bear the whole or the major proportion of this cost is to ignore some of these considerations. I would remind you that the proposal of the Premier of South Australia was that some such method as is now suggested of providing a constant recruiting ground for the supply of well-trained seamen should take the place of the present arrangement with regard to the Australian Squadron.

Mr. GOSCHEN: That the money given for ships should be applied to training men. South Australia proposes to withdraw from the general arrangement and to devote the money to the training of a Reserve force. I believe that was the proposal?

Dr. COCKBURN: Yes. Money is all very well, but men are better, and we could supply a body of men such as money could not buy.

The Hon. W. MLOCK: May I make one further remark. Yesterday, a gentleman, apparently in the confidence of one who anticipated objections, stated that the objection to recruiting for the Navy or creating a Naval Reserve in Canada, was the fear that our men, when they attained some qualifications, might leave our flag and follow another. I think the idea, if it has any place in the mind of those in authority, may be absolutely discredited. There is a strong sentiment in Canada among the young people from whom the recruits would be obtained that would make such a thing quite impossible. Public opinion is so strong that you need not have any apprehension on that score.

Mr. W. BECKET HILL (Allan Brothers and Co.): I want to say a few words. Mr. Goschen, from my practical business point of view, having been interested for the last thirty-one years in a line of steamers that has carried the mails between our oldest colony and this country. You will be aware, Sir, that your predecessors took advantage of the eminently fast steamers running between Liverpool and New York to subsidise them in order that they might be available as an auxiliary fleet of armed cruisers in case of war, and I think the present struggle has shown that they exercised a wise foresight. The American Government followed our example, and the fast steamers they have running between New York and Southampton were fitted out in the same way, and have been of great use in the present contest. Now, Sir, it is probable that some day, as our Colonies rise in wealth—and that may be at a very early day as regards our oldest colony, Canada—there will be a line of eminently fast steamers conveying passengers and mails from all parts of the world to this country; and you will see what an admirable thing it would be if, when those vessels

are required for purposes of war, you were able to man and outfit them on both sides of the world at once. Looking at the thing from a shipowner's point of view, I should say that half of those ships under your control would be, in the case of the Canadian service, on the other side of the Atlantic, and in the case of Australia, at the other side of the world; and what an advantage it will be to have Naval Reserve men, trained on the spot, to bring those ships into immediate use. The United States had not that advantage; and there can be no doubt that if the United States had had a formidable adversary to contend with those steamers would have remained at Southampton, and would have been of no service to the United States; in fact, they might have been instead of service to their enemies. I think that is an important point. We are urging that there should be some scheme devised for forming a Naval Reserve in the Colonies, and of all our Colonies I think Canada possesses the most valuable material. They have to face wet, fogs, and all kinds of weather, and they are about the sturdiest of seafaring men in the world. As regards the practical carrying out of this proposal, it seems to me that as the Colonies arrive at manhood they should no longer take shelter under their mother's apron, but be able to do things for themselves.

Mr. GOSCHEN: That I accept.

Mr. HILL: The Colonies have often told us of their valuable militia, and I think it would only need a little pressure on their part to organise a naval militia and use valuable material to be found in the Colonies for purposes of common defence. The retaining fee is £6 a head in this country, and the same will have to be paid in the Colonies. Such a fee would bring forward an ample number of volunteers, and it would be a valuable thing for these fishermen in the winter. I do not think it would be a heavy tax on the Colonies, as the money would be spent there; and, as regards the Mother Country, she

could lend the implements of education. We could send over our guns and ships and captains, and give these men an excellent training in the ports of St. John, Halifax, and Quebec, where the material is to be found in unrivalled quality and quantity.

Mr. GOSCHEN: Also in Australia and other parts.

Mr. HILL: I think so. I think, perhaps, Canada might set an example to the other Colonies.

Mr. GOSCHEN: I have just been sent for to go to the House of Commons, so I shall be glad to get away as soon as possible.

Sir ROBERT HERBERT: I think, Sir, under those circumstances, there is no more that we need trouble you to hear.

Mr. GOSCHEN, in reply, said: I have listened with very great interest to what you have put before me. I may say at once that I sympathise with your object—namely, to encourage the Colonies to assist in the defence of the Empire, and to increase the number of its defenders. Now comes the question of how to carry it out. I should be very glad if we could have a considerable addition to our Reserves supplied by the Colonies, upon one condition—that those Reserves should be as good as the Reserves that we have. But I think that, as at present advised certainly, I would not be inclined to accept from the Colonies a less well-trained and a less satisfactory number of Reserve men to the exclusion of an equal number of better-trained men in the United Kingdom. What you desire is to have in the Colonies men equally trained with those we have at home. I should say one word first as to the expenditure. I think I am not now addressing a body of Colonial gentlemen so much as the British Empire League, and I think it is their duty, while they impress upon us to do what we can for the Colonies, also to impress upon the Colonies that they must bear their share—at least some share—of the defences of the Empire. We cannot go on constantly increasing the

enormous naval expenditure and at the same time take special measures for the Colonies, unless we see some disposition to meet us half way and to bear at least a share of the expenditure that we incur. That is a matter of principle with which, I think, you will agree. Now, as to the question of training. I fancy that nearly all the difficulties which have arisen have been with reference to the difficulty of training seafaring men in the Colonies. Unless that training is satisfactory of course we could not accept the men. Now, what is the training we have in this country? We train them at batteries or on board men-of-war for twenty-eight days. We are anxious that we should not have men who are unaccustomed to men-of-war, and in enrolling fishermen in the Colonies for the Reserve we thought it essential that they should have some experience of men-of-war. The present conditions are: the training for twenty-eight days at a battery and afterwards embarking in men-of-war for a period of six months. That is an essential part now of the training of the Reserve. I saw the other day a representative from Newfoundland, and we discussed this matter together in some detail; and I told him the first thing we had got to ascertain was whether the fishermen of Newfoundland would accept the terms which the English Naval Reserve men now accept—and it is the only condition that we accept—that besides the training for twenty-eight days they will go to sea for six months in a man-of-war. I told him that if it were found that they were willing to accept this condition then we should proceed in the matter. With reference to Australia, Canada, and the other Colonies, the first thing is to ascertain whether the men will be prepared to learn the discipline of a man-of-war, as we consider that a necessary matter to make them efficient as a Reserve. I do not wish you to make definitely any offer, but the deputation will see that these two things will have to be arranged; in the first place the training at the batteries for twenty-eight days, and



then going to sea for six months. In this country we have batteries all round the coast, and there may be some difficulty in the establishment of batteries for the necessary training in the Colonies. I have spoken of expenditure, and I may say that if the Colonies will bear the expense of training the men we would bear the expense of the retaining fees. At any rate, I am prepared to entertain the question if I see that there is some evidence forthcoming that our Colonial fellow-subjects, the seafaring population, will comply with the same conditions which we consider necessary for efficiency here. I will not underrate the difficulty of twenty-eight days' training, nor going to sea, but we should endeavour to find room and ships at various stations, and afterwards, possibly, assist them in embarking for a spell of real sea service. The difficulty of batteries is, no doubt, very great. One gentleman spoke of our sending ships, officers, and men as if we had got an unlimited number, but, as Lord Brassey and others know, our supply is not so great as to send them to all parts of the world for the training of Reserve men. And what we did for one Colony we should have to do for all. There is, therefore, very considerable difficulty as regards training. The first thing to be done is to see as to how far this difficulty would be met. I will send out our rules applied to the Reserves to the Commanders-in-Chief on the different stations. (Hear, hear.) They will then confer with the various Ministers and Governors, and we will see what the Colonial Governments say to it, and, what is more important, what the seafaring population say to it—whether they will accept the same conditions as those which are now readily accepted in this country. The great change to the requirements of six months at sea is a condition which has been accepted with the greatest approbation by the House of Commons and by all who are interested in the Naval Reserve. We could not make easier conditions for men in the

Colonies when we can readily get Reserve men in this country to accept the conditions. I cannot pledge myself to anything definite with regard to the matter, except that the Commanders-in-Chief will put themselves in communication with the various Governments to see how far they are willing to go. We are not in such need of Reserve men, and the supply is not so limited but what we could largely increase it; and I could not promise that we could supply to the various Colonies the apparatus for training at the expense of this country—that is, to build batteries and to supply the instructors and the houses where the instructors might live, which are all matters of very considerable expense. Our organisation is now such that we should be able to train a very much larger number of Reserve men than we have at the present moment. We have 27,000 men, but there are numerous applications from men, and we shall increase the number of our Reserves at home. Therefore it is not the paucity of our numbers that would induce us to go to any great expense. But I acknowledge the value of the Colonies if they would contribute men efficiently trained as an Imperial consideration from many points of view; and, therefore, so far as the organisation is concerned, we will do our best to see whether the development of the Reserve under the conditions I have mentioned is possible. I do not disguise from you that there are considerable difficulties in the matter which have hitherto arrested any progress at all, but I think I have made a fair offer and an offer which will test the real sincerity, not of the Governments of the Colonies, because I believe them to be sincere, but the reality of the possibility that we should be able to increase to any extent our Reserve. (Cheers.)

General LAURIE, M.P.: Perhaps, Sir, you will allow me to say one word in reference to the difficulties that have been placed before you, as being almost prohibitory, of organising a Naval Reserve force in the Colonies. One difficulty which has been stated outside is that you will

have to give the men there a largely increased pay compared with what you give here.

Mr. GOSCHEN: We should not give any more.

General LAURIE: There is no necessity for it. I can speak with a large knowledge of the fishermen of the maritime provinces. I have lived with them in their houses, and I know their conditions of life and their thoughts and feelings on this matter. Between October and March in each year they come home, and are free during all that time, and they would willingly take up a job of this sort. And then, to go a step further, I would say there is no difficulty in getting them to submit to discipline. We thought there would be at one time, but a number of them were placed on board Government cruisers, and the commanders said they had never had finer or more subordinate men, or men more thoroughly suitable for a cruise on a man-of-war.

Mr. GOSCHEN: Were those Canadians?

General LAURIE: Yes, I am speaking of Canadians. The Newfoundlanders have been brought into friction with the commanders of men-of-war, as they think they are going to drive them off their fishing grounds and let the Frenchmen go on them. The Canadian fisherman is largely a deep sea fisherman, who goes away for three months at a time. The Newfoundland fisherman, on the other hand, is a boat fisherman largely. I wish you to distinctly understand the class of men from whom you would draw your reserves. Many of the difficulties which have been conjured up in connection with this question would, I believe, be found to be imaginary.

Sir ROBERT HERBERT: On behalf of the deputation, Mr. Goschen, I now beg to thank you for the attention with which you have listened to us, and for the important and valuable remarks with which you have favoured us in your reply.

The deputation then withdrew.

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