

To provide the sum of £11,500 a year would necessitate a rate of one-sixteenth of a penny in the £ for the counties and of one-eighth of a penny in the £ for the boroughs. I have made the borough rate double that of the county because the risk entailed upon the borough in event of invasion is very much greater than that upon a scattered country district. I have also left out the county of Akaroa, as in event of invasion it would be quite impossible to prevent an enemy landing in some one of the numerous bays on the peninsula, and the county might fairly be exempted from a monetary contribution. I am convinced that a considerable number of the hardy settlers on the peninsula would enthusiastically assist in the formation of a defensive force. Of course the cost of maintaining the force would be a charge upon the defence expenditure of the dominion, of which this district would be entitled to its full share. The whole force and armament would be under the control of the General Government. I do not advocate any control by the local authorities, but merely that the district should ensure that the armament required for the defence of North Canterbury should be obtained with the least possible delay. The district would still be entitled to its share of the defence expenditure for the whole dominion, and if the Government expended money upon the defences of other ports, Lyttelton would be entitled to participate in this expenditure in the form of increased armament. It is time we left off talking and started the work of preparation. The trouble appears imminent and unless we are ready when the storm breaks there will be no time to prepare and there will be very little hope of our retaining our independence or assisting the Empire. Passing resolutions calling upon someone to do something will not help us,

the responsibility is upon ourselves, not on others, on the public, more than on the Government. If the protection of North Canterbury is not worth the small rate which these proposals entail, then we must not complain if our inheritance passes into more capable hands, and the sooner we set ourselves to study German or Japanese the better, for we may find one of these languages very useful in the not far distant future.

Lyttelton, July 31, 1909.

