

From "Glimpses at Things," in *The Week*, Sept. 7, 1894.

THE paper of most interest to Canadians in the twenty-fifth volume of the "Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute," is Sir Charles Tupper's "Canada in relation to the unity of the Empire." It was read before the Institute on the 8th of last May, and, as will be remembered, evoked sharp criticisms, which are fully reported in the volume now before me. As Sir Charles Tupper's views on the subject have been pretty well advertised, I shall devote my space chiefly to presenting the arguments of his critics.

SIR JOHN COLOMB observed in the course of his remarks :—  
"There is a true and a false imperialism, and I say it is a false imperialism for our great colonies to refuse to look their obligations in the face. It means peril and disaster in the time of war. The other point I wish to make is this—that if Canada were to join the United States, . . . or to become an independent nation, she would have to pay for defence far more heavily than she does now. Switzerland has a population of under three millions ; Canada has a population of five millions ; Switzerland has a revenue of three and three-quarter millions ; Canada has a revenue of seven and a quarter millions ; on defence Switzerland pays £1,200,000 a year, while Canada pays only £282,000 a year.

I pass the consideration of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I admit that that was a great undertaking, for which Canada deserves every credit. But who is going to defend that line in case Canada is attacked by the United States ("Canadian troops.") What, 5,000,000 people alone against 60,000,000 ? Has the gentleman studied war ? I say that that railway has added to the responsibilities of the Empire . . . . . for an invading army getting possession of it could dominate Canada from one end to the other . . . . .

It is not by fine phrases and grand perorations that this empire is to be preserved, but by facing the facts . . . . .

Two portions of the Empire desire, and rightly desire, to improve their communications, and with that view seek to establish a cable and a mail route. Now, these portions of the Empire—