

that is a question which must be more minutely examined; but I believe the figures mentioned are not very far astray, as Mr. Watkin has truly said, it is a question whether in view of maintaining that large territory, it is worth while to incur an expenditure to make the Canadians feel that they are part and parcel of the British Empire.

The CHAIRMAN: If no other gentleman wishes to address the meeting, I have to move the usual vote of thanks to Colonel Syngé for the very elaborate paper which he has read this evening. The questions he has placed before us are of such vast magnitude, that I, who do not pretend to have any acquaintance with them, shall certainly not detain you by any observations of my own. We have also heard a very patriotic and eloquent speech from Mr. Watkin. I think Mr. Watkin takes a view which is held by a great many of our fellow-countrymen, that we should hold what we have got. But when he goes further and says we should get what we can, I confess that I cannot go so far as that with him. Every naval officer must be well aware that, although we have a great many points on this globe that are most useful to us as stations, yet our colonies are now so very numerous, that to add to the points which, in the event of a war, we must defend chiefly by our fleet, would be to impose liabilities upon the country which it is desirable to keep within due limits. If we were to follow up the dictum of Mr. Watkin and get what we can, we should have such a large extent of territory, and so many points to defend, many of which are not easily defended, that we may find it desirable to reduce rather than to increase the number of our dependencies.