

testified to its value to the whole Empire. I only desire to draw attention to the fact that it is the outcome of a policy initiated by the Home Government and continually pressed on Canada by the Home Government. This great Imperial line of communication is the growth of half-a-century; it has been established by the Canadian people without cost to England. Even the expenditure made by the Home Government on the preliminary surveys for the line between the fortresses of Halifax and Quebec has been refunded. The railway across the Continent has involved an expenditure of £48,000,000, of which about £24,000,000 (the exact amount is £23,966,000) has been paid by the Government of Canada in subsidies, or without prospect of return.

Canada does not ask to be relieved of any of the burdens she has assumed; she brings all her costly works as a contribution to the common defence, and she desires that they may be made available in the most advantageous manner to the Empire.

There are several ways in which the line through Canada may be at once utilised for Imperial purposes. I may mention the following three, *viz.* :—

1. As a postal and passenger route from England to the Australasian Colonies.
2. As a postal and passenger route from England to Asia.
3. As a telegraph route, protected by the British flag, from the seat of Government in London to every one of the self-governing Colonies, and also to India.

IMPERIAL POSTAL ROUTE.

First, as a postal route. In your opening address, Sir, you