

sion of the situation, no less than a sense of duty to ourselves. The entire future of the British Empire may largely depend on our wisely availing ourselves of opportunities which are now presented, to strengthen the cohesion of the Colonies to each other and to the mother country.

If that end is to be accomplished, I respectfully submit that Canada's contribution, on which she has incurred liabilities which will tax her people £1,000,000 sterling a-year for all future time, should not be lightly regarded.

If there is to be any practical progress made in consolidating the Colonial Empire, the establishment of such new lines of Imperial communication as I have alluded to, by telegraph and by fast merchant cruisers, is to my mind an absolute necessity.

Would not the establishment of such communications open the way for securing to the Empire in perpetuity a masterful hold on the Pacific? Prepared for the worst that may happen in Europe, would not England, occupied with her own people, and pursuing her own noble aims, be in a position to regard the Eastern question with comparative indifference?

Is it not the duty of the British people scattered around the globe to set about putting their house in order? Is not that one of the main purposes of this Conference? Is it not wise and proper to strengthen the cord of patriotism which runs through Canada and Australasia, and every one of the Colonies in the two hemispheres? Is not everything else secondary to the obligation resting upon us to attend to vital affairs which concern us in common?

These views, suggested to me by my own more immediate range of thought, are submitted to the Conference with all deference.