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CORRESPONDENCE.

From "THE TIMES," May 16, 1894.

THE PACIFIC CABLE QUESTION.

Sir John Pender has addressed the following letter to Sir Charles Tupper :—

WINCHESTER HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.,
May 15, 1894.

DEAR SIR CHARLES TUPPER,—I have carefully looked through the paper which you read last week at the meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, and had I been well enough to attend the meeting I should have made an effort to be present.

I cannot, however, allow your statement to pass unchallenged that the " protest against the proposed cable is largely based upon fallacies," feeling convinced that if you would carefully study our figures and arguments, which are based on actual facts and practical experience of cable working, and compare them with those furnished by Mr. Sandford Fleming, you would come to the conclusion that the fallacies are not on our side, but on your own.

For instance, to take the first point in your paper relating to amortization, you are entirely mistaken in stating that " some 5,350 miles (or about 30 per cent.) of the 18,000 miles of cable now forming the system of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company is more than twenty years old, and is still in working condition, the balance of about 12,650 miles being duplications and extensions laid since 1874." As a matter of fact, nearly the whole of the cables originally laid by the Eastern Extension Company have been renewed, some entirely, and in a considerably shorter period than twenty years.

Then, as to your estimate of traffic for a Pacific cable, you have quite ignored the fact that at the Wellington Conference it was decided that the ordinary tariff should be 3s. per word, instead of 3s. 3d. as proposed by Mr. Sandford Fleming ; consequently, after the necessary out-payments are deducted, which would probably