

"not only my own opinion but the opinion of my own  
"Government, and I believe of the majority of the  
"people of South Australia. If the work is done  
"at all it should be done as a Government work."

I said that the Agents-General for Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand and myself had all been instructed by our respective Governments to urge upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies the appointment of a Commission on which the Imperial Government, Australasia and Canada should be represented for the purpose of considering and reporting upon the best means to be adopted to secure the prompt construction of a Cable between Canada and Australasia; that I might call his attention to the fact that my colleagues and myself had pressed in the strongest manner upon the consideration of his predecessor, the Marquis of Ripon, and upon Lord Rosebery, the great importance in connection with this work, of Her Majesty's Government promptly taking possession of Necker Island; that Necker Island was in the same category as other islands which had been taken possession of by Her Majesty's Government in recent years without any remonstrance on the part of the Hawaiian Government; and we had further pointed out that as soon as it became known that we were seriously contemplating the construction of a cable between Canada and Australasia, no doubt that Island would be taken possession of by some other power. What we had feared had taken place, and the Hawaiian Government had formally taken possession of Necker Island, - clearly showing that they had not previously done so, and with the unfortunate result that at least half a million pounds sterling had been added to the necessary expenditure for the Construction of the Cable by the greater distance to Fanning Island, which would now be required to be used in order to attain the important object of having the Cable only touching British territory.

Mr. Chamberlain expressed his great interest in the subject and felt that prompt action was demanded by the movements on the part of foreign countries, whose action

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