

something to the strength and glory of the Empire ; but to express the value of that contribution in £ s. d. is difficult. I could criticise these figures rather severely. They seem, for example, to be put forward as comparable with other expenditure, such, for instance, as the contribution of the Australian Colonies to the Navy, or the expenditure which will fall shortly on the Home Government for the construction of the harbour and dock at Gibraltar. It would, I think, be possible to draw up a column of figures which would put the relative expenditure of the Colonies upon matters of Imperial defence in a very different light. I pass with pleasure to the portion of the Paper in which I thoroughly agree—that is, Sir Charles Tupper's advocacy of the completion of the link across the world between England to Australia, going west. I do not think an Imperial subsidy could be better applied than in encouraging such a project, and I thoroughly endorse all that has been quoted on that head from Sir Andrew Clarke. As to Sir John Colomb's criticisms, I do not agree with him. I cannot see how the increased burden is to arise. The twenty-knot steamers which are to be provided will be very well able to take care of themselves if they are used for commerce. If they are used for war, *cuius est quæstio*—they have not to be defended. As to the cables, I do not think they will require any special protection. It all turns on the naval policy this country is to pursue—whether that policy is to be vigorous offensive, searching out an enemy's vessels wherever they may be, or a miserable defensive, waiting for an enemy's attack. There is one great and distinctively national force which alone can keep the Empire together and protect the commerce upon which the Colonies, as well as the Mother Country, depend for existence. I hope that the time will come when every Colony of whatever degree will contribute something to the national navy.

The CHAIRMAN (the Marquis of Lorne), in proposing a vote of thanks, said : I think the making of extensive programmes and looking too far ahead and gigantic theories, all a mistake. I believe we ought to take in hand those questions which are being pushed by the authority of the Governments of the day. You have such a question in the matter of cable and mail communication between Canada and Australia. I believe Great Britain will find it greatly to her advantage to further that end ; and I hope all those who may have belonged to the Imperial Federation League will give a hand to the cause.