

Imperial or Not Imperial.

No opinion is here expressed as to whether the objects, for which a fresh contribution is sought from the funds of the United Kingdom, are of **a sufficiently Imperial character** to justify Her Majesty's Government in admitting the claim which has been made upon the United Kingdom.

Paramount Claims of Maritime Defence.

But it is desired to emphasise **the paramount nature of the claims of Imperial Defence** upon the whole of the Empire by the following comparisons:—

1. The proposed cable will connect only two countries of the Empire, and will not come within 5,000 miles of the United Kingdom, which is called upon to contribute to it.

The Royal Navy, to which the Colonies do *not* at present contribute, is found upon every Colonial coast, and is called upon to protect every Colonial interest.

2. The steamship lines and the cable are in prospect only.

The Royal Navy has been provided and maintained by the United Kingdom, without Colonial aid (until the Australian contribution above referred to, in 1892), since its establishment in the days of Henry VIII., and without it the Colonies could not have attained their present prosperity.

3. The steamship lines and the cable are to be private enterprises, to be worked for profit, and, if any control is to be exercised over them, it must in the nature of things be exercised by the countries to and from which they run.

The Royal Navy is administered by Her Majesty's Government, and its services are even now claimed and utilised by all parts of the Empire.

4. That the need of the services of the proposed cable and steamship lines is, at present, limited, is proved by the admitted fact that they can only pay if heavily subsidised.

An efficient system of Maritime Defence is of vital necessity to every British subject in the Empire.

5. Such undertakings as cable and steamship lines have