

whole Empire? If you decide that it is not, you strike at the very root of the project, and we need go no further. If, on the other hand, the question is decided in the affirmative, the question that arises is, How much will it cost, who shall be the contributories, and in what proportion ought they, equitably, to contribute? As I understood Sir John Colomb, he struck at the very root of the question. He charges the Colonies with never having contributed their fair proportion. That is not now the question. Let us get rid of side issues and decide the big question, and having done that, then will come the time to ask how much the several Colonies ought, on the merits, to contribute towards what will have been acknowledged to be a national and Imperial work. If it is not Imperial, if you say it is only a matter between Canada and Australia, England will be bound, in the interests of her people, to say, "We cannot help you; we believe it to be a good work, but we do not feel interested in it." Why should not England be interested? Who is to pay for the work? These are questions which will be settled at the Conference. As to the question "Who is to protect the line when laid?" I would ask Sir John Colomb, Who, in the event of war, would protect the existing line? Does he mean to say, Lie quiet and see the line picked up and destroyed? Not for a moment. That is not England's way, and never was. If a friend of the Empire—a friend of England—one that was an ally—was put to trouble, what would England do? England would act the manly part she always has acted. She would prevent those lines being taken up and destroyed, whosoever might attempt it. Would the existing company pay for the defence of the present line and prevent its being taken up? Certainly not. What are the navies of Great Britain for? They are for the defence of her people and her honour, and I venture to say it would be a stain upon her honour to allow the humblest of her citizens in any part of the world to be the subject of injustice and outrage, to say nothing of her Colonies, which are bone of her bone. Wherever project of the nature now under discussion is shown to be ultimately for the great good of the Empire, the Colonies will not be slow to pay their share. In the matter of naval defence, they have not shirked their duty under the arrangement made a few years ago, and I am confident the Imperial Government will not shirk its duty.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir GEORGE S. CLARKE, R.E., K.C.M.G.: There is one thing in this interesting Paper which I a little regret. I could wish Sir Charles Tupper had not introduced some of the figures he has given us. All progress in every Colony contributes