

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND EXPLANATIONS

By Sir Sandford Fleming.

When the delegation of the Board of Trade waited on His Excellency recently, at Government House, the President in his address alluded to the far-reaching importance of the resolution adopted by the assembled Prime Ministers at the final meeting of the Imperial Conference, last summer, in London and pointed out that there could be no more fitting corollary to the concluding act of the Conference than the establishment of a complete globe-girdling circle of telegraph cables such as the Board advocates.

His Excellency replied in a sympathetic and extremely encouraging manner. My own efforts, as a member of the Board were alluded to by His Excellency most kindly, and if I may, with due respect, venture to say so, perhaps in too flattering terms. It is true that my life to a large extent has been spent in furthering the establishment of national works of inter-communication, and thus promoting by practical means the consolidation of the Empire; but I can lay no claim to be more than an admirer, in some respects possibly a very humble imitator, of such far-seeing men as Rowland Hill, who gave to the United Kingdom the inestimable boon of a cheap and efficient postal service, and of Henniker Heaton, who has laboured so long and so assiduously, and who, among other things, has been so largely instrumental in extending the benefits of penny postage to the whole Empire. Moreover, I cannot too strongly emphasize the fact that the credit of what has been accomplished through the instrumentality of Canada is very largely due to the warm co-operation and constant interest of the Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa.

Since His Excellency received the delegation from the Board of Trade, Rudyard Kipling has been amongst us and has got very near to the hearts of all true Canadians. He has inspired us with a broader sense of kinship to the thousands and millions of our fellow-citizens the world over, who like ourselves are consciously or unconsciously building up a great twentieth century Empire. This seer, with vision sweeping the Empire's bounds, and with supreme faith in the future, told us that the young communities of British motherhood, the young nations separated only by the seas, and of which Canada is regarded as the foremost, must ever look forward, keeping always in sight the proper path to follow and holding in memory the best traditions of their race.

The Bishop of London has likewise visited us. He told us that he had charge of the heart of the Empire, and he brought us the message that those in the heart of the Empire are proud of the Dominions over-seas. He reminded us, however, that great things are expected of us, as members of the family of British nations developing into a new Empire of peace; and that if we are true to our heritage, this new and greater British Empire would prove a beneficent gift to the world.