

efforts materialize in the establishment of a Pacific cable, affording better facilities for business between the two great colonies, and securing exclusive British communication by telegraph between the Mother Country and Australia. This is cause for congratulation in which I know you will readily join.

DEEP WATERWAYS.

Reference must be made to the Deep Waterways Convention held in this city, in which the Board was intended to take an active part. Unfortunately the views of the Board and the Convention were not entirely in accord, and, in consequence, it became necessary to place the opinions of the Board on record as differing from those of the Convention. All will agree with the desire to have deep water communication from the Great Lakes down the St. Lawrence, and the deeper the better, for our trade and commerce. Where an enormous expenditure, however, is necessary to have this desire carried out, as business men, it becomes our duty to watch that the expenditure be made judiciously, and in keeping with the financial resources of the country. Our Government and Parliament are committed to a policy for our canals of fourteen feet deep, and the work is now nearing completion. It would be unfortunate if agitation for a greater depth should disturb the work being finished, to the fourteen feet, at the earliest possible date. The Dominion Government has not, up to the present time, shown reasonable diligence in the construction of the St. Lawrence Canals, and I would urge that pressure be brought to bear on our Minister of Railways and Canals, lest the policy of delay be still continued.

POSTAGE.

I must again draw your attention to the injustice done our people by the maintenance of the present high rate of postage. It is time that a more enlightened policy should be adopted. The United States can afford to deliver letters to their people for two cents, and I believe we can afford to deliver them to our people for a like charge. As a medium of practical education, and as a social bond of union between our people, letter correspondence should be encouraged. I would also recommend that the indiscriminate free delivery of newspapers and periodicals be abolished. The gain from this, with the Canadian letters now taken across the line and posted in the United States, together with a larger use of the mails, would probably compensate in revenue for the reduction of letters to two cents. Free delivery has greatly lowered the standard of reading matter, and brought into existence a multitude of advertising sheets which have an injurious influence upon the reader, and legitimate literary enterprise. I trust the Postmaster General will be able to see his way clear next session, to give us cheaper letter postage. Such a reduction would be a step towards penny postage throughout the Empire.