

much less under public ownership. This is because the telegraph and telephone service in Australia are both incorporated with the post office, and require few, if any, separate offices. Nearly every one of the three thousand telegraph stations in the country is in the district post office. In the United States there is a post office for every thousand persons but a telegraph station for every three thousand, while in the newer, poorer, and far less thickly settled country of Australia, there are fully six thousand post offices to meet the requirements of four millions of people, or one to every six hundred and sixty six people; and more than three thousand of these are also telegraph stations, being one to about thirteen hundred persons.

But Mr. Lusk shows that this economy of management is not the only reason why the Australian telegraph has succeeded. He shows that it is appreciated and made use of by the people at large to an extent that is unknown where charges are higher and conveniences are less. Among the European nations, Great Britain having a concentrated population within a small area, makes most use of the telegraph—two messages a year for every inhabitant. In the United States, where the population is more scattered and more difficult to reach, the people send about one message a year for every inhabitant. In Australia, where the population is more widely scattered, than in America, two and one half messages a year pass over the wires for every inhabitant. New Zealand, however, has outdone her larger neighbor. There, the government supplies a post office for every five hundred people and a telegraph station for every eight hundred, and with somewhat lower rates than Australia. The people send four te-

legrams a year for each inhabitant, and the revenue from the telegraph is said to be even more satisfactory than in Australia.

The postmaster general sums up the advantages of the government system of telegraphs in the assertion that the system does for the people of Australia precisely what the great trusts are doing in various industrial lines. By operating on a great scale, it is saving on the cost of working, and is thus able to give the public a better article at a lower price; Thus the public is induced to use the convenience afforded on a scale so large as to make it pay. In a new country, of wide extent and thinly populated, like Australia, or Canada, the facilities for speedy and reliable communication could not be supplied except at enormous cost, and the government seems to be the only agency prepared to undertake this function.

This appreciation of the Australian telegraph system is right in line with the impression left upon the mind of Sir William Mulock, Canada's postmaster general when he visited the Commonwealth. He at that time publicly expressed his desire to adopt a like system for Canada in connection with the post office department. This was regarded by Mr. Tarte, then minister of public works, as an attempt to lay violent hands on his patronage, as the government telegraphs operated in Canada are under the control of the public works department. No such petty jealousies should be allowed to stand in the way of a governmental enquiry into the rates charged in Canada on telegraph messages, which will be found in many instances most excessive.