

You have referred to the concluding act of the Imperial Conference which has pledged the Empire to quicken the connections between Canada and the United Kingdom on the one hand, and Australia and New Zealand on the other.

I congratulate you that through the action of your representative at the Imperial Conference, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the representatives of the Empire in conference assembled resolved that the time had come for the establishment of a mail and passenger service between Great Britain and Canada equal to the best supplied New York. The time is not far off when Canada will reap the great advantage of the geographical position with which nature has endowed her, by the establishment of a service which will stop our British letters travelling over two sides of a triangle via New York, and when the merchant in New York, to whom time is a consideration, will travel to and from and communicate by post with the United Kingdom through Canada.

Gentlemen, the object of your requesting me to give you this interview is to provide you with an opportunity for bringing once more before the attention of the public the desirability of supplementing the establishment of the All-Red route with an All-Red Empire owned cable, "by and through which will freely interflow between every portion of His Majesty's dominions every national aspiration and every sympathetic impulse of the British people in every portion of the globe."

The adoption of this policy has long been advocated by your Board of Trade, and when the day comes, (as come it will), when peoples living within range of the All-Red cables will be able to exchange thought with every other people similarly situated at a low and uniform rate, making telegraphic intercourse between various parts of the British Empire as easy and almost as cheap as that which exists between Ottawa and Vancouver to-day, then when that day comes, thanks in a large measure to your efforts, nothing will be able to deprive the Ottawa Board of Trade, and Sir Sandford Fleming especially, of the halo of glory which will for all time belong to you.

As one of those who believe with Sir Sandford Fleming that the establishment of a State owned All-Red Line will be a service of hardly less importance to the Empire than the establishment of the All-Red route, I shall have much pleasure in forwarding to Lord Elgin, the Colonial Secretary, with a request that he shall communicate its contents to the King, and with the approval of His Majesty, to the other Governments of the Empire, the address to which I have listened with so much interest.

I have never forgotten the words of Mr. Hoffmeyer, the famous South African, when Sir Sandford Fleming's scheme was explained to him, "If I were