

I have based the comparison on the actual Atlantic charges at the present time, and on a decision deliberately arrived at by the Board of Directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company with respect to Australasian business. On this basis I have reckoned one shilling per word for the Pacific service, but even if that rate be doubled, it needs no words of mine to prove that the gain to the telegraphing public and the Colonies would be enormous.

I am sanguine enough to believe that the moment Canada and Australasia are telegraphically connected there will be a wonderful development of telegraphic activity, and business will far exceed present conceptions.

Mr. Pender alludes to the Pacific as if its depth was a serious objection to telegraphic submersion. The soundings which have been made on the route to be traversed go to show that the greatest depth is from 3,000 to 3,100 fathoms. This is indeed greater by about 100 fathoms than the depth of waters in which cables have been successfully laid, but the excess is trifling. I must, however, bring to your notice that the depth is itself an element of security. The cables in deepest water at the present time are those of the Brazilian Submarine Telegraph Company,* and it is a singular fact that this Company, with cables sunk to a depth of 2,960 fathoms, has paid far less than any other Company for cable repairs. This Company owns to-day some 7,340 nautical miles of cable; if I am correctly informed, it has never owned a repairing ship, and I believe it has only carried out two, or three, repairs in the thirteen years it has existed.

Does not this go far to establish that telegraph cables are by

* Laid from Lisbon to Pernambuco, in South America, *via* Madeira and Cape Verde Islands.