

It will thus be seen that, without taking into account any additional increase in the number of messages which the great reduction in charges would undoubtedly produce, a very great saving would be effected in the Australian business. If the estimate be well founded it would amount to £5,456,497 within the first ten years, being an average saving of over half a million pounds per annum.

The new line when established will form a connection through South Australia with Port Darwin, and thence by existing telegraph lines with Asia and Africa. It is obvious, therefore, that it possesses a peculiar interest to the Imperial Government, as it will afford the means of communicating not only with the Australian Colonies independently of lines passing through the Mediterranean, but also with India and every British Station between Hong Kong and South Africa.

Canada has already done much towards establishing the new line of telegraph between Great Britain, Australia, and Asia. She has, by an enormous expenditure in connection with her national railway, brought Vancouver within telegraphic reach of England, and she has thus rendered it a comparatively easy task to complete the whole connection. It has cost in all about £40,000,000 of public and private money to establish the Railway and its adjunct the telegraph by which Vancouver has attained the commanding position which it occupies in respect to the Pacific cable scheme. The Pacific cable is, however, in some degree a corollary to the line across the Continent, and it is reasonable to expect that the Canadian Government will readily co-operate in its establishment.

The following Governments are more or less interested in the undertaking :—

1. The Government of Great Britain.
2. „ Canada.
3. „ Hawaii.
4. „ Fiji.
5. „ New Zealand.
6. „ New South Wales.