

It is not at all necessary to occupy your time at any great length in refuting this contention. I shall only remark that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have made arrangements to transmit all Australasian telegraph business over their wires across the Continent for twopence half-penny ($2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per word, and that the ordinary charge across the Atlantic is sixpence (6d.) per word, making a total charge of eightpence half-penny ($8\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per word from Vancouver to London. Vancouver is 5,500 miles from London, and the nearest point of Australasia is 6,500 miles from Vancouver. Vancouver to London is therefore the shortest half, but if the actual charge for transmission on the short half be $8\frac{1}{2}$ d., at the same rate messages sent the whole distance would be a little more than double, or say 1s. $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per word. On reference to the published tariff of the Company, represented by Mr. Pender, I find that the charges for ordinary messages are as follows, viz.:—

				Per word.
London to New South Wales	...	...	...	9/6
„ Queensland	...	...	...	9/9
„ South Australia	...	...	...	9/4
„ Victoria	...	...	...	9/4
„ Western Australia	...	...	...	9/4
„ Tasmania	...	...	...	9/11
„ New Zealand	...	...	...	10/6

From this it appears that the lowest charge for the transmission of ordinary messages, by the existing line, to any one of the seven Colonies, is nine shillings and fourpence ($9/4$) per word.

I ask if a reduction from $9/4$ to $1/8$ per word would be inimical to the interests of the telegraphing public, and no benefit whatever to the Colonies?