

	£
No. 4. The India-rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works Co. -	1,081,000
No. 3. The W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co. -	1,589,000
No. 2. The Fowler-Waring Cable Co. -	1,880,000
No. 1. The Siemens Bros. Co. -	1,900,000

Route No. 8.

From Vancouver Island direct to New Zealand, with mid-stations at Honolulu and Fiji—complete, including maintenance for three years, in each case.

	£
No. 4. The India-rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works Co. -	1,243,000
No. 3. The W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co. -	1,655,000
No. 2. The Fowler-Waring Cable Co. -	1,910,000
No. 1. The Siemens Bros. Co. -	1,970,000

The cost of maintenance is variously estimated by the several firms, the highest being that of the W. T. Henley Telegraph Works Co., who place the cost at 115,000*l.* per annum or 345,000*l.* for the three years. This is subject to a reduction if the spare cable provided for the purpose be not used. The Siemens Bros. Co. include in their offer for the purpose of maintenance 270,000*l.*, being at the rate of 90,000*l.* per year, this also is subject to a reduction if the actual repairs cost less than the sum named. This mode of charging for the maintenance and repair of the cable has an obvious advantage. The Fowler-Waring Co. stipulate that a fixed sum, 300,000*l.*, be allowed to guarantee maintenance and repair for the three years. The India-rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works Co. make no special charge for guaranteeing the maintenance and repairs, and as their offer for laying the cable on each one of the eight routes is the lowest, it is well to make this point perfectly clear by quoting from their proposal as follows:—

"The contract prices given hereunder for the different routes include the erection at each cable-landing place of a suitable dwelling-house and operating room for the working staff, with duplicate sets of all proper instruments at each station; also the use of two steamships fitted with cable tanks and all necessary machinery for repairing the cable, *and the cost of maintaining these ships, as well as the cables themselves, for three years.*" The contract prices for which this firm is prepared to manufacture, lay and maintain the cable for three years on any one of the eight routes are as follows:—

	£
Route No. 1 - - - - -	1,517,000
Route No. 2 - - - - -	1,416,000
Route No. 3 - - - - -	1,303,000
Route No. 4 - - - - -	1,068,000
Route No. 5 - - - - -	1,291,000
Route No. 6 - - - - -	1,391,000
Route No. 7 - - - - -	1,081,000
Route No. 8 - - - - -	1,243,000

This Company states that if entrusted with the contract they will undertake to manufacture the cable at the rate of 20 miles a day, and will proceed to ship and lay it with the least possible delay.

An examination of this tender and accompanying documents shows that this Company propose to use an approved type of cable; the core on the long section (Route No. 1) is to have a copper conductor weighing 533 lbs. per knot, insulated with gutta-percha weighing 365 lbs. per knot, the sheathing to be the same as the deep-sea type of cable adopted by the Anglo-American Telegraph Co. in the newest Trans-Atlantic cable laid this year. The shore ends and intermediate cables to be similar in character and weight to those generally adopted under like circumstances.

There is one apparent omission in this tender in connexion with shore end and shallow water cables. I can find no special mention of a metallic protection against "teredos." In the opinion of the undersigned, the core of the cable should be enveloped in a brass tape. The additional cost is not great, and before any contract is entered into with this or any company it should be clearly stipulated that this effective means of protection against the ravages of marine life should be provided.

I have, &c.

SANDFORD FLEMING.

The Honourable Mackenzie Bowell,
Minister of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.

ADDITIONAL REPORT ON TENDERS.

SIR,

Ottawa, December 11th 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report on the letter addressed to you by the India-rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works Company, of date the 22nd November 1894, on the subject of the tender of that firm for manufacturing, laying, and maintaining the Pacific cable.