

it seems utterly vain to talk of the closer consolidation of the Empire until its various component parts become more fully acquainted with each other. The information at present given by the Press of these several countries concerning each of them, from day to day and from week to week, is as slight as if the countries were in nowise connected. If the newspapers throughout the lands that float the Union Jack could give their readers as full information regarding the different parts of the Empire as the papers of the United States give regarding the ongoing in the several States, it would bring the British people into such close touch with each other that the problems connected with Imperial consolidation would soon become easy of solution. Mutual knowledge would lead to closer friendship and to unity of sentiment and of purpose, so that wise and well-considered action could be taken towards more intimate relations in trade and government.

The proposal set forth in this lately published State Paper is "that all the self-governing British communities in both hemispheres be brought into direct electric touch with each other and all with the Mother Country; that cable telegraphs should connect each adjacent or proximate community, in such a manner as to constitute with the connecting land lines a continuous chain of telegraph around the globe, and thus admit of messages being sent in either direction from any one British State to any other British State. This globe-encircling chain of telegraph cables would extend from England to Canada, and thence to New Zealand, Australia, India, South Africa, and the West Indies, returning to England by way of Bermuda with a branch to Nova Scotia or Newfoundland. That this system of connecting lines may be of the highest Imperial advantage it is essential that it be wholly State-owned and State-controlled." The estimates go to show that the cost of the whole circle of cable telegraph proposed would not exceed £5,000,000.

If such a system of cables were once established, they might be used daily for the transmission of general intelligence during the hours when they were not required for commercial service. This intelligence might be furnished by a department to be formed for the purpose, which might act in harmony with those who supply information for the Press, and which might secure in the different countries interested the publication of intelligence regarding matters of leading importance. In one of the documents in this State Paper it is suggested that the headquarters of such an intelligence department would naturally find its proper place in England. "Besides the Imperial Board of Intelligence in London, possibly branch