

The London Post Office authorities have completed arrangements for a new four-weekly mail service with China and Japan via Canada. The first mail was despatched from Hong-Kong on the 7th April, and the first from London left April 23rd. The Government recognized the great saving in time by the Canadian route by ordering all Japan letters awaiting carriage to be forwarded via Canada instead of awaiting the next Brindisi mail. Hong-Kong and China letters go via Brindisi unless specially marked "via Canada."

The proposed route for the Transpacific cable is from Vancouver to a point on the coast of Queensland, with stations at Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, and Queensland. These breaks will, by dividing up the total length of the wire, greatly increase the speed of the signals, for the speed diminishes in proportion to the square of the length of the cable. Messages will be repeated or relayed at these stations. The estimated cost of the line, which, if laid, will finally complete the circuit of the earth, is £2,000,000, and a guarantee from the colonies interested is expected to reach £750,000 per annum. It is proposed to hold a conference of Canadian and Australian delegates to consider the matter.

That portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, between Port Arthur and Winnipeg, is being relaid with new 72 pound steel rails, and the bridges and the trestles are either being filled with earth or replaced with stone structures. It is contemplated to make extensive improvements in the mountains this and next year, and very large additions will be made to the rolling stock, 60 locomotives and a large number of freight and passenger cars having been already ordered. The Souris coal fields will be reached this year. The report that the company is to build a bridge across the Red river at Selkirk is unfounded. The Calgary & Edmonton railway will probably be extended 50 miles southerly during the year.

Hon. Edward Blake, accompanied by Mr. George Tate Blackstock, Q.C., and Mr. A. Munro Grier, left Toronto for British Columbia on Saturday, 18th April, in the C.P.R. private car, Champlain. These gentlemen are the legal representatives of the C.P.R., in the arbitration between that company and the Government, which is to be continued in May in British Columbia. The