

telegraph. Long experience in the British Islands, and indeed, wherever the principle has been applied, amply confirms the wisdom of the policy of charging the same rate for all distances. It must, however, be distinctly borne in mind, that in no country does it appear to have been possible to put the principle in practice without first placing the telegraph lines under Government control.

At present, the rates charged are graduated according to distance and range, from 25 cents a message, and upwards. With the service brought under State control, the lowest rate should at once I think be made uniform for all distances.

With respect to the general principle of Government control, little need be said. From the earliest days, the Government of every civilized nation on the face of the earth has taken charge of the conveyance of letters and correspondence, and, as a rule, they have always employed the best available means of doing so. At one time the mails were carried on horseback, at another period by stage coach. In more recent times, the Governments have not hesitated to have the people's correspondence conveyed by steam power. To-day, a far speedier, and I may add, far cheaper agency than steam, that is to say, electricity, is at command, and we may ask ourselves the question, is it not incumbent on the Government to take the fullest advantage of this heaven sent means of conquering time and distance?

I submit for your consideration, three remarkable facts.

(1) Canada remains the only country in the British Empire where the telegraph service is not state-owned.

(2) With two single exceptions, Canada and the United States, the telegraph service of every civilized nation on the face of the globe is controlled by the State.

(3) In Canada and the United States, the charges for the transmission of telegraph messages are practically double the rates charged in all other civilized countries.

I leave it with you, gentlemen of the "Fourth Estate" to determine how long this condition of affairs should last in this British Dominion.

GREAT ULTERIOR BENEFITS.

"A cheaper telegraph service."—The subject on which I have been asked to address you is not simply a domestic question concerning Canada alone; it is a matter of Imperial and inter-Colonial concern and may well be considered not only by the Canadian Press Association, but by the statesmen who will be gathered together at the coming conference in London next June. On that occasion, it may "be assumed that the bend of the Colonial Secretary's mind will be found in accordance with the desire of the Colonial representatives."

At this stage in the History of the British people, a wide-spread interest has arisen in Imperial matters. The South African War has given to the Imperial idea a great impulse. As we view it from a Canadian standpoint, we feel ourselves awakened to the fact that the Dominion of Canada forms no inconsiderable part of the surface of the Globe which is designated British, and that if we do our part aright