

a sufficient number of representative, independent, public-spirited, moderate-minded men to act in an honorary capacity as members of an Imperial Intelligence Board, in each capital city.

The chief duty of these Boards would be to direct the policy to be followed, and to appoint a staff of paid officers, including a Chief and Assistant Editors, to carry out that policy efficiently. The staff would be responsible to each respective Board. The number of such paid officers would depend upon the plan adopted, and this I shall presently allude to. Whatever the number, it would be no more difficult for the Boards of Control to obtain on satisfactory business terms men equally able, equally faithful to their duties as the editorial staffs employed by the great public Journals, and we all know how well the world is served through the Press in this respect.

As the proposal is not an ordinary dividend-seeking project, but a great Intelligence Union with high Imperial aims, it is undesirable and it is quite unnecessary to maintain high rates for the transmission of messages. Cheap cable telegraphy must be recognised to be a powerful, indeed an indispensable, aid to Imperial consolidation, it is therefore felt that the policy should be adopted of reducing progressively the charges on messages transmitted by the circle of Empire Cables to rates which, while still leaving the service self-supporting, would be the lowest possible. It is capable of proof that if this policy be adopted, two results will follow after providing for actual working expenses. (1) For several hours daily the Board of Control will be enabled to transmit free Press messages for simultaneous publication in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, India, South Africa, and elsewhere. (2) The charges on ordinary paying traffic will steadily be lowered and will gradually approach a minimum. Under this policy we would have public messages transmitted free or at a mere nominal rate, and if we apply the principle of a uniform charge for all distances (as in Imperial