

sending code messages, that is, messages in words which are not English or French or are not employed in their ordinary sense, and are intelligible only to the sender and receiver. The transmission of such messages is attended with practical difficulty, and delay often results. It is proper therefore, that the rate for code messages should be higher than for ordinary messages.

Messages transmitted within the second, the third and the fourth sections, would be subject to the same rules and the same tariff as described for the North Atlantic section. For example, ordinary messages passing between New Zealand or Australia and Canada, on the one side, and between New Zealand or Australia and South Africa on the other side, would be charged at the rate of a penny a letter. In the case of messages transmitted through two sections, that is under two oceans, the rates would be doubled. Take for example messages transmitted from Australia or New Zealand to England, whether they go by way of Canada, or by way of South Africa, the charge would be two pence per letter, or one shilling per word of six letters. As under ordinary circumstances, messages would never require to be transmitted across more than two oceans, the rate of two pence per letter would be the maximum charge for transmitting ordinary messages from any one point to any other point in the circle of Empire Cables.

Press messages are generally transmitted at considerably lower rates than ordinary messages. In the United Kingdom, in India, in Natal and other British possessions, the rate for press messages is about one fourth the charge for ordinary messages. The present charge for press messages between Australia or New Zealand and England, is one shilling per word, being one third the rate for ordinary messages, which is three shillings per word.

Charges for telegraphy have heretofore been reckoned on the number of words transmitted, but there are objections to that practice, as words in common use vary in length. One word will have two letters, another ten or more letters. There are excellent reasons, especially in long distance telegraphy why charges should be reckoned by letters rather than by words. The number of letters in messages however long, can easily and accurately be ascertained by a simple mechanical method. As to the cost of transmission, let us take an instance at random? Let us take, say, the last sentence in the immediately preceding paragraph beginning—"The present charge, etc." That sentence contains 157 letters, and it is divided into 32 words. If sent from Australia to England as an ordinary message, the charges would be:—

(1) Under the suggested Empire Cable Tariff—

157 letters at 2 pence per letter. . . . 26 shillings, 2 pence. (\$6.28).

(2) Under present tariff—

32 words at 3 shillings per word. . . . 96 shillings. (24.00).

For the same sentence if transmitted as a press message the charges would be:—

(1) Under the Empire Cable Tariff—

157 letters at $\frac{1}{3}$ of a penny per letter. . . . 8 shillings, 9 pence. (\$2.19).

(2) Under present tariff—

32 words at 1 shilling. . . . 32 shillings. (\$8.00).