

CONFIDENTIAL.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION
BY
THE CANADIAN ROUTE.

*Submitted at the Meetings of the Colonial Conference on the 19th and
20th April, 1887, by Mr. SANDFORD FLEMING.*

I.

HAVING given some attention to the question of Postal and Telegraphic communication, I avail myself of the privilege afforded me of submitting my views to the Conference.

The Right Hon. the Chairman, in his opening address, suggested that it is desirable to consider improved communication as a whole, so as to bring into view a complete system. In the remarks which I now propose to submit, I shall endeavour to keep that suggestion prominently in view, although, perhaps, being associated with Canada, and more familiar with the thoughts and hopes of the Canadian people, it is not unnatural that I should speak more particularly of the position which the Dominion occupies in relation to the Empire and its needs.

The question cannot be considered without reference to the relative geographical position of the great self-governing Colonies. These are situated in three distinct Continents—America, Africa, and Australasia. According to our ordinary habit of thought, Canada, in the western hemisphere, and Australasia, in the eastern, are at opposite ends of the Colonial Empire, and are as far asunder as it is possible on this globe for two countries to be situated. We all know now that this is a mistaken idea, nevertheless it exists, and it is due greatly to the circumstance that immigration from Europe takes opposite directions to Australasia and to Canada. In consequence of this circumstance,