

munication between countries separated by the earth's semi-circumference, or any considerable portion thereof. What the circumstances require and demand to-day is a fully organised public service, having at command a complete system of connected Cables girdling the Globe; an electric circle forming an instantaneous means of communication by which the millions may be reached daily, or at least frequently, in each and every self-governing British community in both hemispheres; obviously such a service would exert an enormous influence in advancing the interests and in unifying the aims and aspirations of each of those communities.

I have indicated in these few words the ideal means of mutual information which it is desirable to secure. It has, for want of a better name, been designated an "Imperial Intelligence Service." The question before us is, "Can such a service be attained?"

The Canadian Parliament has furnished the reply in the documents printed and issued by the King's Printer.¹ One of these documents is a letter to the Earl of Elgin, in which will be found suggestions respecting the creation of an Imperial Intelligence Department, established in the common interests and especially for the benefit of the many, a widespread organisation, coextensive with the Empire, dedicated to the acquisition, collection, transmission by cable, and publication in a free-handed manner, of intelligence on any subject of general interest, for the information and education of the British people of every class in every quarter of the Globe.

If you will permit me, I shall read a few sentences from this letter to Lord Elgin on the free exchange of Empire news (page 9).

"In addition to a Central Board in the British Metropolis, there should be local Boards and agencies in each self-governing community, where desired information would be acquired. It

¹ To be obtained, free of charge, on application to the Secretary of the Eighty Club, 3 Hare Court, Temple, London, E.C.