

between New Zealand, Australia and Canada. Since the beginning of November in 1902 it has ever since been in successful operation and the financial returns indicate a steady annual increase. By arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, a copper wire has been placed along the line of railway through all the provinces from British Columbia to Quebec and the through telegraph business is transmitted under the direct control of the Pacific Cable Board. There only remains an Atlantic cable to be placed under the same control. Thus it appears that the first great division of the Empire-girdling chain, is within measurable distance of completion. We are however, brought nearer to, if not face to face with, a possible difficulty of a grave character. The difficulty is so serious that to neglect it or delay in providing a remedy, would be most unwise.

On the old telegraph route between England and Australasia by way of the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, it was found necessary to duplicate the cables. The object of this duplication being to provide against the delays resulting from breaks in a single cable. With this provision the second cable came into use wherever a break occurred, and the telegraph traffic was there thrown into the second cable until repairs were effected.

The Pacific Ocean is crossed by a single cable and experience goes to show that a break may occur without any warning whatever. Suppose a break occurred in that long section, 3,500 miles between Vancouver