

which all the interested Governments would contribute in equitable proportions.

A scheme of this kind, by which all the telegraphs mentioned may be consolidated and brought within the management of one department under Government control, could, of course, only be carried out by the co-operation of all the Governments concerned; but I venture to submit that the subject is one which claims earnest consideration. The scheme outlined, if carried into effect, would bring Canada within electric touch of Australia and New Zealand; it would establish an alternative line from India and Australasia to England, removed as far as possible from the theatre of every European complication and struggle that may arise; it would bring down charges on the transmission of messages to such moderate rates as would greatly facilitate intercourse and enormously develop business between Australasia, Canada, and the Mother Country; it would meet the case of South Australia, and enable that Colony to participate in the general advantages to be conferred on all the Colonies; and it would remove all reasonable objections on the part of the Eastern Extension Company. In the event of that company being disinclined to reduce its present high charges and unwilling to enter into competition with the new line, it would have the option of handing over all its property and receiving for it a fair and full value. If, however, the Eastern Extension Company determine to reject such reasonable proposals, the amount of capital to be provided will be so much the less, and it will become a very easy matter for the Governments concerned to carry out the essentially important work of connecting Canada and Australasia telegraphically.