

## V.

### SUMMARY.

As the object of this paper has been to present a general view of the whole question, and as it was desired to make the case intelligible to general readers, among whom not much previous acquaintance with the subject was to be presumed, it has necessarily run to a considerable length. On that account it will perhaps be useful to conclude with a brief summary of the whole.

(1) The principle and mainspring of the whole argument is the immense importance—on high grounds of Imperial policy affecting our commercial, political, and social development—of increasing to the utmost the facilities of communication between the scattered communities of the British Empire. This principle was recognised and partially acted upon in the reform of Colonial postage rates recently introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when the old policy, obstructive of such inter-communication, was partially departed from.

(2) The reduction of rates then made involved the admission of two fundamental principles hitherto officially opposed. One of these is the surrender by the Exchequer of a substantial portion of the growing Post Office surplus, for the purpose of giving increased postal facilities to the public, instead of devoting the whole of it to the relief of general taxation; the second being the admission of the right of correspondence within the Empire, but outside the United Kingdom, to share in the advantage thus afforded. Though these points were conceded in principle, the application of the principles was partial only and insufficient.

(3) The existing distinction for postal purposes between the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire is an anachronism. The expansion of England and the growth in facilities of locomotion demand the extension of Rowland