

mind with respect to the establishment of a great channel of communication, linking together in an electric girdle the self-governing British communities. In the concluding words of the communication, they appear to think that it is of transcendent importance to inaugurate an Imperial Cable Service, which, while satisfying in the highest degree the needs of commerce, would at the same time perform the functions of a continuous spinal cord encircling the globe, by and through which would freely flow every national aspiration, every sympathetic impulse of the British people in every longitude and latitude.

Much evidence has been accumulated to establish, that, the system of Empire Cables advocated by the Board, would cheapen over-sea telegraphy between every one of the great British possessions around the globe to an extent now little dreamed of.*

If the policy be adopted of making the transmission charges on ordinary messages, just sufficient to pay working expenses, and if a uniform rate, irrespective of distance transmitted, be charged, as in the case of Imperial penny postage, a complete revolution would follow, which would undoubtedly lead up to a wonderful advance in the consolidation of the Empire. Every British Citizen within range of the globe encircling Empire Cables, would practically be brought into one neighborhood telegraphically. Every person in the Motherland, in Canada, in the East and West Indies, in South Africa, in Australia, and in New Zealand, would be free to exchange thoughts, one with the other, as readily and almost as cheaply as we do by telegraph at present with friends in neighboring cities.

In these few words we have endeavored to indicate to Your Excellency the great ideal in constructive Imperialism which we have set before us, and we venture to think that there can be no more fitting corollary to the concluding act of the Imperial Conference. We therefore make free to suggest that a system of State Cables encircling the globe may be regarded as a supplementary Imperial necessity.

On behalf of the Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa, we respectfully express the hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to bring the subject to the attention of the several Governments.

We have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servants,

JAS. W. WOODS,

President

CECIL BETHUNE,

Sec'y-Treas.

* See memorandum on Cable Telegraphy by the All-Red Line, page 21.