

rates, and thus render the line of the greatest commercial utility. It is believed that the reduction in rates contemplated, and rendered possible by the satisfactory terms agreed upon with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, will give a great impetus to telegraphy and promote the development of intercolonial intercourse and commerce.

7. The arrangements proposed, and the terms agreed upon, will admit of messages being sent from Australia to Great Britain on the opening of the new line at less than half—eventually, it is believed, at one-third—the charges at present exacted.

8. While the new line, established as set forth, will stimulate commercial activity between the countries to be connected, its political, naval, and military value will be very great indeed. It is well known to naval and military commanders that no reliance can be placed on the permanency of communications by way of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, and it becomes obvious that the line through Canada may, during any emergency, assume incalculable importance. The cable across the Pacific will always be removed from the theatre of European complications. It will not only be a direct means of communication between the Australian Colonies and the Mother Country, but if an emergency arises to render every wire through Europe and Egypt useless, it will still be possible to communicate with India; indeed, every British station between South Africa and Port Hamilton may continue in telegraphic connection with London.

9. To secure advantages so great—and it is difficult to say whether in a commercial, political, naval, or military aspect the advantages would be greatest—Government aid and co-operation is necessary; but as there are twelve Governments more or less