

Notwithstanding this exceedingly discouraging declaration, the work has been grappled with and the railway is constructed, and, I may add, that a magnificent train service, with appointments for the most luxurious travellers, passes over it every day in the week.

Is it surprising that Colonists are disposed to reserve their judgment when any project of a similar kind is pronounced even by good authority to be impracticable?

It is perfectly true that our information respecting the Pacific Ocean is incomplete, but so far as it goes there is nothing on which to base an unfavourable opinion. Two years back I personally looked with attention into the whole matter, and I put on record the conclusion which I arrived at. I beg leave to read a paragraph from a published letter, which I addressed to the Premier of Canada, Sir John Macdonald, Oct. 20th, 1885:—

“There are, indeed, extensive coral reefs in the central
 “and southern Pacific; but the most authentic hydrographic
 “information establishes that those reefs are generally in
 “great groups, separated by wide and deep depressions free
 “from obstructions. It is further revealed by the latest
 “bathymetric data that those depressions or troughs present
 “(as far as ascertained) a sea floor precisely similar to that
 “of the Atlantic, so suitable for submarine telegraphy.
 “Those ocean depressions, alike by their geographical
 “position and their continuity, open up the prospect of
 “connecting Canada and Australasia by a direct cable.”

Mr. Pender says that a telegraph from Canada to Australasia would not benefit the Colonies, and that “it would be inimical to the interests of the telegraphing public.”