

- (3.) In the Atlantic Ocean, from South  
Africa to Bermuda ..... 6,600 knots.

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22,850 "

The total distance for which new cables would be required (of which 20,250 knots would be in the main line, and 2,600 knots in branches) may be roughly placed at 23,000 knots, and the cost (including the branch to Hong Kong) between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000.

I have long advocated the first division of the proposal, the establishment of a cable from Canada to Australasia as a State work. I have felt that it would be the forerunner of an all-British telegraph system embracing the whole Empire. As a State undertaking, I am satisfied that the Pacific Cable would be a complete commercial success, and that so soon as it so proved, the cable extension to South Africa and India would follow.

One advantage peculiar to a globe-encircling system of cables will be apparent: each point touched would be in connection with every other point by two routes extending in opposite directions. This feature is of special value, as it practically constitutes a double connection in each case. The projected system of all-British cables with its branches, would thus doubly connect the following fortified and garrison coaling stations, namely:—Hong Kong, Singapore, Trincomalee, Colombo, Aden, Cape Town, Simon's Bay, St. Helena, Ascension, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Bermuda, Halifax, Esquimalt, King George's Sound and Thursday Island. The following "defended ports" would likewise be connected, namely:—Durban, Karachi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Rangoon, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Townsville, Auckland, Wellington, Lyttleton and Dunedin.

Would it not be in the interest of a great commercial people to have these, and all such points in the outer Empire, connected by a means of communication so perfect as the electric telegraph? Is it not a matter which