

III.

(ADDENDUM)

AN IMPERIAL INTELLIGENCE UNION AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE EMPIRE

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THERE has lately been issued by order of Parliament a sessional paper on the establishment of an Imperial Intelligence Service and a system of Empire Cables.¹ The subject with which this paper deals should be of interest to all lovers of our Empire, as it contemplates the establishment of a globe-encircling system of State-owned cables, together with an Imperial Intelligence Department, as a means of advancing the consolidation of the Empire.

For some years we have had a good deal of writing and talking about Imperial consolidation, with suggestions more or less definite for the formation of an Imperial Council, or other representative assembly, which might take special cognizance of those interests that affect the Empire at large, and in whose deliberations the views of each part of the Empire might be heard. In order, however, to prepare the way for any forward movement in this direction, it is absolutely necessary that the different parts of the Empire, both the Mother Country and the Greater Britain beyond the seas, should possess a fuller and more accurate knowledge of each other than they have yet attained. No doubt such information is spreading. Australia, Canada, and South Africa are better known in England and to each other to-day than they were even a few years ago. But there is still so much to be desired in this respect that

¹ Parliamentary Return embracing a communication to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, from Sir Sandford Fleming, with other documents appended thereto. Dominion of Canada Sessional Papers, Nos. 67 and 67A, 1906 (see footnote, page 5).