

secured by means of the most perfect modern facilities for inter-communication. Hence, among the most urgent and fundamental of the subjects which may present themselves for discussion at the coming Conference, are those of transportation, postal, and electric cable facilities,—the latter in a special degree. The most practical and effective direction of sound imperial development has been indicated by a well known public-spirited citizen at once of the Dominion and the Empire, whose views extensively set forth* have gained the support of many of the most eminent men in Canada, and quite recently have been widely promulgated by one of the most influential political associations in the United Kingdom.† This matter, as is well known, has occupied years of labour, and although the fruits may appear to some impatient and less practical spirits as somewhat slow in maturing, it must not be forgotten that the spanning of the Pacific by a submarine telegraph has been a direct outcome of these efforts, and that this first result forms no inconsiderable portion of the whole circle of Imperial cables advocated. Moreover, as exemplified in the case of Imperial penny postage, tardiness in complete development is quite frequently a feature in matters of the most lasting importance.

Since public opinion is the fundamental and most important factor in determining all great matters in democracies, there can be few interests which the public opinion of the Empire should have more at heart than that of improving its own intelligence. Let us hope, therefore, that members of the Colonial Conference will devote attention to this most elemental of all needs.

**Vide* Letter to the Earl of Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, by Sir Sandford Fleming, and other documents; *e.g.* Sessional Paper No. 67, Canada, 1906.

†In a pamphlet on the Establishment of a great Imperial Intelligence Union as a means of promoting the wellbeing of the Empire; issued under the auspices of the Eighty Club.

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