

His Excellency, Earl Grey, in replying to the address of the Ottawa Board of Trade, alluded to the remarkable geographical position of Canada, stretching as it does between the two oceans. There is in truth no part of the twin continents north or south of the equator, other than the Dominion, which commands "an Imperial route between Great Britain and the Orient and those great British Dominions in the Southern Seas of New Zealand and Australia."

This one geographical circumstance greatly elevates the character of the questions discussed in the foregoing pages; it much widens our horizon, and the subjects considered become more than domestic questions relating to Canada alone; we find ourselves on the predestined route of a great highway of the world; we occupy the gateway between the East and the West, the only passage for the All-Red Line through the longitudinal axis of America from the Straits of Magellan to the Arctic Ocean.

Viewing the subject from the higher standpoint, the importance of the land telegraph across Canada, from ocean to ocean, and the Atlantic Cable from Canada to England, as links in the Imperial chain, at once becomes obvious. It will be manifest too, that while both would be of the highest advantage to the Dominion, these two links would prove to be a splendid contribution by Canada to the whole Empire. Added to the Pacific Cable already laid, they would complete no less than half the circle of State-cable telegraphs around the globe.

Let Canada establish these two links in the great Imperial chain and the remaining links to complete the circle will speedily follow. Then, the policy discovered by Rowland Hill, 70 years ago, which we find to be so admirably suited for long-distance telegraphy, may with striking advantages, be applied to the globe-girdling system. Under that policy, and partly owing to the power of sending messages in either direction, it will be possible to reduce greatly the charges for transmission.

We may rest satisfied that eventually the day must come, when, precisely as we now have Imperial Penny Postage, we will have one uniform telegraph rate for all distances within the circle of the Empire cables. Meanwhile, until the general plan suggested takes shape, and the volume of traffic be more fully developed, if it be thought advisable to introduce the change step by step; that course can be followed.

The circle of contemplated Empire cables traverses four oceans, and may (merely for tariff purposes,) be divided into four sections as follows:—

1. The North Atlantic Section—connecting the United Kingdom and Canada.
2. The Pacific Section—connecting Canada with New Zealand and Australia.
3. The Indian Ocean Section—connecting Australia and South Africa.
4. The South Atlantic Section—connecting South Africa with the United Kingdom.

It has already been pointed out that the tariff of charges in the North Atlantic section may easily be reduced to a uniform rate of a penny a letter, that is a charge of six pence, per average word of six letters, on all ordinary messages transmitted between any telegraph station in the United Kingdom and any telegraph station in Canada. By ordinary messages is meant, messages made up of ordinary words used in their ordinary sense. A practice has grown up of