

him, to connect either Queensland or New Zealand with Vancouver, B.C., by way of Fiji and Hawaii, by which it appears that the estimated cost of the cable would exceed £2,000,000 (say \$10,000,000); and that, as it is the intention of the company to very greatly reduce the rates at present existing for telegraphic messages between England and Australia, the company would require assistance from the different Governments interested, in the shape of a subsidy, which is roughly estimated at about £70,000 per annum for a period of about 20 years. Mr. Fleming represents that the Governments interested in the project are Canada, Great Britain, India, Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia, Hawaii, and Fiji, and states that advances have already been made towards some of the agents of the Australian Colonies, with a view of having the terminus of the proposed cable in British Columbia instead of San Francisco, which have been favorably received. Mr. Fleming suggests that as Canada is greatly interested in establishing direct telegraphic communication with Australia, India, and the East, it would be advisable that this Government should take the initiative in the matter, and invite a conference of the Agents of the colonies interested to discuss the subject.

The Minister, agreeing with the suggestions made as to the advantages likely to accrue to Canada from the establishment of direct cable communication between British Columbia and the East, and that it would be advisable that this Government should take the initiative in the matter, recommends that advantage be taken of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition now being held in London, and the presence in that city of representatives from the colonies interested, to obtain an expression of opinion on the project, and that the High Commissioner for Canada be requested to invite a conference of the Agents General of all the colonies interested, and ascertain how their respective Governments would be disposed to act in the matter, and what amount of assistance they would be prepared to give; also, that the High Commissioner should ascertain from the Imperial authorities what assistance might be expected from them on behalf of the United Kingdom and India, and that the High Commissioner report the result of his inquiries as speedily as possible.

The Committee concur in the report of the Minister of Public Works, and the recommendations therein made, and submit the same for your Excellency's approval.

The Committee further recommend that the High Commissioner be instructed to put himself in communication with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and endeavor to secure the co-operation of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

JOHN J. MCGEE,

Clerk, Privy Council.

IV.—6.

DIRECT TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA, CANADA, AND GREAT BRITAIN.

BATT'S HOTEL, DOVER ST., LONDON, 10th July, 1886.

SIR,—Having learned that the Canadian Government has instructed you to confer with the representatives in London of the other Governments interested in the projected telegraph communication between Australia and the United Kingdom, by what may be termed the Canadian route, I beg leave to submit the accompanying documents bearing on this important question.

I desire to direct your attention more particularly to the enclosed memorandum of date London, 1st July. In this document I have ventured to explain the views I have formed with respect to the projected telegraphic communication, and the principles upon which a company may be organized for carrying out the undertaking.

I have consulted a number of capitalists, as well as experts in ocean telegraphy, and have quite satisfied myself that with a very moderate Government subsidy, a