

THE EAST INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

As the English can make no use of the Red Sea cable, they propose now to construct aerial lines through the wild and barbarous countries of Asia Minor and Persia, and thence to Beloochistan and Affghanistan. Although the carrying out of such a project may be successful, yet the maintaining of such a line in a state of repair would be equally expensive as difficult.

But if a general telegraphic communication with the East Indies should crown such an undertaking with success, a glance at the map of Russia would convince one that the Russian telegraph line along the Caspian Sea, Orenburg and Ormsk, can very easily be extended to Teheran, the shores of Syr-Darja, and the Sea of Issik-Kul, and that, in case of any political misunderstanding, the short line between the Russian and Indian frontier stations could easily be destroyed.

Russia having no commercial relations with the East Indies would gain no other advantage but the transit of messages from such a telegraphic communication.

This route to the East Indies, which in every respect is a safer and better one than that through the wild steppes of Asia Minor and Persia, cannot be too strongly recommended.

I shall on some future occasion point out more minutely the telegraphic route between Russia and the East Indies.

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