

course of postal development throughout the Victorian era points in the same direction. In establishing such a system, we should be merely extending the operation of principles which have already been approved by conspicuous success. A considerable part of the undertaking has already been achieved in the construction of the Pacific cable. Can we doubt that it is sure to reach full consummation? Can we doubt that not 7 years will pass before the realization of a Pan-Britannic telegraph service will bring the ends of the earth within speaking distance of each other, and knit all men of British blood, the whole world over, into a national union as effective as now prevails within the British Islands themselves?"

That is the obvious meaning of the great undertaking now completed. That is the true purpose of the outcome of a joint arrangement entered into by six British governments on the last day of the century. A partnership unique in history and a date co-incident with the close of the glorious Victorian era. Now we find ourselves the inheritors of an accomplished fact pregnant with beneficent consequences, not for the Empire only but for humanity generally.

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