

the connection of Canada by a direct submarine telegraph across the Pacific is a project of high importance to the Empire inasmuch as telegraphic communication between Canada and Australia was possible only by way of the west coast of Africa or the Red Sea and, en route, the messages have to pass through territory belonging to several foreign powers. From this date the projectors persistently insisted on their scheme being carried out and finally obtained the consent and financial aid of the governments interested. The work was immediately commenced and successfully finished on the 31st October, 1902. That will be a memorable day in the history of the Empire, for at Suva, in the Fiji Islands was completed the last link of the Pacific cable, which places Great Britain in direct communication with her colonies, and brings our own Dominion ten thousand telegraphic miles nearer the Australian Commonwealth.

The new cable has its Australian terminus at Southport, Queensland. From Southport the cable proceeds north-east across the Pacific by way of Norfolk, Fiji and Fanning Islands to Bamfield, British Columbia.

The total length of the cable is 7986 miles, and cost \$12,125,750. The cost of the cable is to be borne by the Canadian, Australian and Imperial Governments.

The first message over the line was sent to the King in London, and subsequently one was received at Ottawa by the Governor General, sent by Sir Sanford Fleming from Ottawa. It was transmitted eastwardly across the Atlantic to Great Britain, thence to South Africa, across the Indian Ocean to Australia, then along the new cable to Bamfield, and by the C. P. R. telegraph to Ottawa.

In the face of enormous difficulties the scheme has been successfully carried through by Sir Sanford Fleming and his confreres who are to be congratulated on the successful achievement of an enterprise only equalled by that of those who laid the first Atlantic cable.