

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 to having the terminus of the proposed cable in British Columbia instead of San Francisco, which have been favourably 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