

"It is proposed to establish a system of Empire-gridding, state owned Cable-telegraphs in an unbroken chain around the globe. These cables are designed to connect, telegraphically, in the most complete manner, the several groups of self governing British communities in Europe, America, Australasia, Asia and Africa. It is held that the Empire cables should be state-owned for the following and other reasons, viz:-

1. "In order that they may be wholly removed from the control of companies, whose chief object is to make profits by maintaining as high rates as possible on messages.

2. "In order that the cost of telegraphing throughout the Empire may be reduced to a minimum.

3. "In order that the British people, geographically separated by the oceans, may be brought within touch by a means of intercourse as free and unrestricted as possible.

4. "In order that the Governments of all the self-governing British peoples within the Empire may be enabled to confer with each other at all times, with the greatest facility, on matters of mutual concern.

5. "In order that no portion of these great lines of communication may come under foreign influence, or be used to the detriment of British interests.

"The Empire Cables are, for greater security and effectiveness, designed to be laid in deep water, and to touch, or traverse only British Territory.

"This new Imperial service, forming an unbroken chain around the globe, under one control, would provide a double means of telegraphing, that is to say, easterly as well as westerly, between any one British state and any other British state. By the removal of every restriction possible, it would stimulate commercial, social and political intercourse between the several parts and tend in every way to strengthen the Empire.

"This electric bond of Empire may be described as consisting of four divisions, viz:-

1. "From the United Kingdom to the Pacific, embracing a cable across the Atlantic and land lines through Canada.

2. "A cable across the Pacific from Canada to New Zealand and Australia, with land lines through Australia to the Indian Ocean.

3. "A cable from Australia across the Indian Ocean to South Africa, with a branch from Cocos Island to India.

4. "A cable from Cape Town to the United Kingdom, via Ascension, the West Indies and Bermuda, with a branch to Canada.

"The proposal to establish the first of these four divisions has for some time been before the Canadian public, and we feel warranted in saying that it is regarded with much favour. The Canadian Press Association has, with the greatest unanimity passed resolutions in its support, and it cannot be doubted that in the event of the Canadian Government proceeding to nationalize the telegraph service between London and Vancouver, it would be accepted with general satisfaction throughout the Dominion.