

In the first place, such a line would consist of 770 miles of submarine cable, and 233 miles of aerial lines. Such a line would at first sight appear preferable, as the aerial lines interconnecting it, would make it so much cheaper than if the whole length were cable, but there would result the following great inconveniences :—

I. Owing to the Aleutic Islands being destitute of wood, the erection of telegraph poles in the stony ground, and the replacing them in case they became rotten, would offer great difficulties in the construction of aerial lines.

II. The many shore-end cables which would be required, mostly exposed to deterioration, especially on the rocky shores there, and generally more expensive than the other parts of the cable, on account of the rocky beds between these islands, would be in danger of soon becoming useless ; and

III. These shore-end cables would each necessitate a man to guard it, and by placing two men on each island at least 100 men would be required ; whilst at some places water (much less food) can scarcely be found.

From the above we may safely conclude that a submarine cable all the way from Kamtschatka to America, though in the first instance more expensive, would be more durable, and would bring the different cables to such shores, where there is a safe port and anchoring place.

The following points could be selected in the Aleutic Islands for such a submarine line :—

From Petropavlovsk in Kamtschatka to—

1. A village in Behring Island	580 wersts.
2. Port in the Copper Island	150 „
3. Port Tschaleskoi, at Attou Island	445 „
4. Port at Kiska Island	300 „