

Surveys.—Charts may be seen at the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, and at the office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London, showing the soundings which have been made from time to time in the Pacific as far as recorded. It is expected that additional soundings will shortly be made, but parties making proposals must assume all risks, and in the event of a contract being entered into for establishing the cable, the contractors must themselves take means to find the most suitable points for landing the cable at all terminal and mid-ocean stations. It will be understood that in each instance the landing privileges are to be secured by the contributing Governments.

Time of Completion.—The time limited for the completion of the cable is three years, from the date of the contract; but as it is desirable to have telegraphic communication established as soon as practicable, proposals may state a shorter period; or the same parties may make two offers, one on the basis of three years, the other on the shortest period within which the undertaking may be accomplished.

PROPOSALS.

Proposals based on the above general conditions, and in either of the three forms set forth, to be addressed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and delivered at his department in Ottawa, on or before the first day of November 1894.

Department of Trade and Commerce,
Ottawa, August 6th, 1894.

4. *Resolved.*—That in view of the desirability of having a choice of routes for a cable connexion between Canada and Australasia, the Home Government be requested to take immediate steps to secure neutral landing ground on some one of the Hawaiian Islands, in order that the cable may remain permanently under British control.

5. *Resolved.*—That the Canadian Government be requested, after the rising of this Conference to make all necessary inquiries, and generally to take such steps as may be expedient in order to ascertain the cost of the proposed Pacific Cable, and promote the establishment of the undertaking in accordance with the views expressed in this Conference.

APPENDIX B.

REPORT ON TENDERS.

SIR,

Ottawa, 20th November 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report on the replies received by you on the 1st inst., in response to the public advertisement of the Government of Canada, inviting cable manufacturing contractors and others to state the terms upon which they would be prepared to lay and maintain in an efficient condition a submarine electric cable across the Pacific from Canada to the Australasian Colonies.

1st. Sir John Pender, Chairman of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, 50, Old Broad Street, London, addressed a letter to you, dated 19th October 1884, in which he represented (1) that full information respecting the depth and nature of the sea bed has not been obtained, and in consequence reliable opinions cannot be formed; (2) that Mr. Alex. Siemens' estimates of revenue are fallacious and that my own estimates are not much more reliable; (3), that a cable laid as intended would be quite useless and would prove a commercial failure; (4) that a telegraph established across the Pacific as proposed would result in a loss of at least 90,000*l.* a year to the company he represents. Sir John Pender, in short, discourages in every possible way the attempt to span the Pacific by a Canada-Australian telegraph, he states, however, that he will be most happy to enter into negotiations for accomplishing the work if sufficient inducements be offered him, and he pleads that his company "will be able to undertake the work on better terms than could be offered by any other company."

2nd. Mr. W. Sharpley Seaton, 57½, Old Broad Street, London, likewise addresses you 19th October 1894. This gentleman sets forth at some length the great necessity which exists for a detailed survey. He considers this to be of primary importance and counsels delay until such a survey be made.

3rd. The Chairman of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, 38, Old Broad Street, London, writes 19th October 1894. He criticises generally the proposals which have been published by the Canadian Government, and raises objections to the conditions laid down for intending contractors. He objects to each one of the eight routes specified, and proposes a new route, taking in Honolulu and Samoa. On this route the firm he represents would lay a cable of a good type and weight between Vancouver and New Zealand (only) for 1,870,000*l.* This amount, however, does not include maintenance for three years or for any period. Nor does it include a branch cable to Australia. He urges as a first step that the line should be sounded over its entire length on the exact route chosen, and he states that his firm cannot undertake to guarantee the repair of the cable until a further investigation has been made of the sea bottom over which the cable is to be laid.