

The Imperini Committee decided to recommend the establishment of one cable, leaving its duplication to be followed at some future time "when the success of the undertaking warranted a fresh outlay of capital."

That was the wise decision reached by the committee presided over by Lord Selborne, and of which Lord Stratheona and Hon. A. G. Jones, Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia were members.

My own frequently expressed views in harmony therewith, are, that one cable will be sufficient until a second is really demanded by increased telegraph traffic, and that meanwhile a substitute for duplication of both Atlantic and Pacific cables may be obtained in quite another, far more useful and far more effective way. That is to say, by taking steps to extend State-control over deep sea cables from Western Australia, via the Cape to England. By so doing both Atlantic and Pacific Cables will form portions of the "round the world system," when every point touched will be doubly connected with every other point. It will be at once recognized that this arrangement would obviate any necessity for incurring a double capital expenditure on cables to lie idle at the bottom of the ocean, waiting for an interruption which may not happen. The same expenditure would go a long way towards completing the globe girdling telegraph system which would admit of messages being transmitted either westerly or easterly, and should any emergency arise to prevent them crossing the Atlantic they could still, under ordinary circumstances, be sent in the opposite direction. Obviously, instead of sinking money on two cables laid side by side, one of which for the present would be little used, the wiser policy would be to inaugurate the Pan-Britannic telegraph service so as to cheapen communications and provide the freest means of intercourse for the several groups of British people in the four quarters of the globe. Assuredly one of the first results of such a service, would be to reduce greatly the cost of telegraphy all over the world; while its undoubted tendency would be to vitalize the broadest patriotism and realize the dream of the United Empire Loyalists and all imbued with the true Canadian spirit.