

would popularize trans-Atlantic correspondence, and render it available for purposes for which it has not hitherto been used. Possibly a fair price for Press despatches would be half rate, that is to say two and a half cents a word.

The proposal has been generally well received in Great Britain as well as in Canada. True, one or two anonymous letters have appeared in the Times and other London papers, written obviously in the interests of the cable companies, but my arguments in favour of the proposal remain unanswered.

An Atlantic cable under Government control would, by lowering charges eighty per cent., interfere more or less with the existing cables. That interference would, however, be merely an incident, as the objects to be achieved by the establishment of the new cable are, not competitive, but purely national. Should the effect be to lower generally trans-Atlantic rates, the augmentation of business, which certainly would follow in a few years, would prevent revenue suffering to any great extent.

In order that the companies' business may be interfered with as little as possible, it may be advisable to introduce the reduced charges by a gradual process. For example, the average length of an ordinary message is probably six or seven words, costing for transmission six or seven shillings. If by arrangement, the minimum price of a message be placed, in the first instance, at four shillings or one dollar, by all cables, both old and new lines would transmit dollar messages; the only difference would be in the number of words transmitted; in the one case it would be six words, in the other twenty. Either way, there would be manifest advantages to the public. By some such arrangement, a Canadian cable may be established across the Atlantic with a minimum of interference with existing cable lines.

STATE CONTROL OF LAND LINES.

To nationalize the land telegraphs of the Dominion is, probably, of the two questions, the one which concerns us in Canada most intimately. I shall therefore with permission, submit some remarks on the criticisms relating to the proposal which have appeared in the Canadian press. I have always pointed to the Postal telegraph system of the United Kingdom as a model to be imitated in its essential features, for the reason that it is a remarkable public service, unparalleled in any part of the world. The telegraph lines were owned in the first place, by railway and other private companies. They were expropriated on the authority of an act of Parliament and have since then been controlled and extended for a period of over thirty years by the Government. By means of the State owned telegraph system, any person in the three Kingdoms can send to any other person, however remote, a message of 12 words, for 6 pence, and each additional word, for one halfpenny. Almost every post office is a telegraph station, and if the person to whom the message is addressed, lives three miles away from an office, the telegram is sent to him without extra charge and the messenger instructed to