

business in 1873 consisted of 8,952 messages to and from the Colonies. The last returns are for 1884, when the messages sent and received reached 48,896 ; showing an extraordinary development in eleven years, averaging an annual increase of forty per cent. This increase may, however, be abnormal, and as the last three years of the period show a more moderate growth, it will be safe to take the latter as a basis on which to estimate future business.

The number and cost of messages between the Australian Colonies and Europe, for the three years referred to, was as follows :—

	No. of Messages.	Cost.
1882	39,175	£225,567
1883	43,334	251,277
1884	48,896	270,766

These results give a fair indication of the steady growth of the business under the present high tariff.

The annual increase in the number of messages is equal to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the average cost of each message sent during the three years 1882, 1883, and 1884, is £5 13s. 9d. ; the charge of ordinary messages per word (between Sydney and London) being ten shillings and tenpence, Government messages eight shillings, and Press messages six shillings and sevenpence.

The undersigned has brought the question of a cable from Vancouver to Australia before the Board of Directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and has succeeded in effecting arrangements of a most satisfactory character. This Company will, within a few weeks, have telegraphic connections with all the principal points in the United States, including all the important cities on the Pacific coast, and will be able to transmit messages on such terms as will enable the Pacific Cable Company to secure practically the entire business between the Continent of America and the Australian Colonies. The cable leading from Port Darwin, in the direction of India, will, moreover, enable the new Company to command a very large share, if not all, the business between America and Asia.

It will be practicable under these arrangements with the