

union or intimacy of any kind, the first thing to be thought of is a direct telegraphic connection; without it the young mercantile marine on the Pacific would be ruinously handicapped, and the successful development of commerce rendered impossible.

But beyond the promotion of commercial and social relations, there are other considerations of the highest importance.

It is only necessary to look at a telegraph map of the world to see how dependent on foreign powers Great Britain is, at this moment, for the security of its telegraphic communication with Asia, Australasia, and with Africa—in fact, it may be said that the telegraphic communication between the Home Government and every important division of the Empire, except Canada, is dependent on the friendship (shall I say the protection?) of Turkey. Is not Turkey continually exposed to imminent danger from within? Is she not in danger of falling a prey to covetous neighbours, whose friendship towards Great Britain may be doubted? What has it cost in British blood and treasure to obtain the goodwill and give strength to a Power so weak? And yet the Ottoman Government, on which we depend for communication with India and Australasia, appears continually exposed to impending disaster.

The Suez route has proved convenient in the past, and it may prove useful in the future, but when our object is to strengthen the Colonial system, is it wise to be so dependent on a Power the condition of which is so critical?

I venture the remark that the patriotism and enterprise of Canada has opened up the way by which the British Empire may be placed entirely independent of any foreign Power with respect to its telegraphic communications.

The western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway—Vancou-