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EXTRACT of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir
GEORGE GREY to the Governors of the North American Colonies, dated
"Downing Street, 22d March 1855."

(Private.)

"FROM the general interest now taken in the advancement of communication by means of the electric telegraph, I think it not improbable that applications may be urged on the Local Governments of the North American Colonies for exclusive privileges towards the establishment of such telegraphic lines of communication.

"I am anxious, therefore, to put you beforehand in possession of the views of the departments of Her Majesty's Government which are conversant with this subject. They consider that the progress of improvement in electric communication is now so rapid, and so likely to attain further development, that unless great care is taken in making these concessions, Governments are likely to find themselves embarrassed by pledges of this description, an embarrassment which they believe to have been already experienced by the Governments of the continental countries.

"I do not address you with reference to any particular schemes which may be likely to be brought before you, not having any information of such, but merely by way of general caution. I need hardly add that any assistance in the way of advice as to such schemes will be readily given by the proper departments here whenever applied for."