

London to buy and sell we are met by a currency and a system of weights and measures with which we are almost as unfamiliar as when we go to Germany or France. We do not feel at home in the same sense as if we bought and sold in terms with which we are familiar. It would also be a great convenience if there were a uniform system of legislation by which debts and claims in all parts of the Empire could be disposed of in similar terms. Those who trade with the Colonies and Great Britain would then know more readily how their debts and liabilities could be disposed of and how, once incurred, they could be the more easily collected. I noticed while the minutes were being read that there was a reference to the unfortunate condition in which certain persons, born in wedlock in Canada, find themselves when they come to the Motherland. That is an anomalous condition which I should be happy to see altered. (Hear, hear.) Uniformity in postal laws has been practically achieved, largely through the generosity and statesmanship of the Duke of Norfolk, assisted by Mr. Henniker-Heaton here, and the Postmaster-General, Mr. Mulock—(hear, hear)—on our side. That settlement we appreciate greatly. It is a bond of union, and it meets in its own way certain objections which I have taken to deficiencies in other respects. Cannot we have, in conjunction with that, a system of intercolonial cable communication? We rejoice in Canada that we have solved, with your assistance and the assistance of Australia, the problem of the Pacific cable, by which Australia, Canada and the Empire, will be connected at an early date. We miss that quick correspondence between Canada and the United Kingdom which we could get by a system of nationalized cables; and, another thing, we miss in public life the brief despatches—the telegraphic news which would come over a nationalized system of cables at a much lower rate than now charged. It is desirable that all parts of the Empire should be in easy communication, commercially and politically, and that not only we should be informed of the position of stocks and exchange here, but that we should have daily in Canada some knowledge of the great political pulse that beats and throbs so strongly here. A cheaper system of cable communication would aid in that respect. And, again, I should be glad to see something like reciprocity—perhaps this is the only term I can use—between the Empire and the Colonies with regard to professions. The Lord High Chancellor with all his powers cannot