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"South and West Australia agreed to appoint Commission but suggested six; two to be nominated by Imperial Government, two Australasia and two Canada. Terms of reference will follow shortly."

Enclosed you will find the communique that was handed to the press by the Colonial Office.

I feel sure you will agree with me that under the existing circumstances no good object could be gained by communicating Mr. Fleming's letter of October 11th to the Agents-General or to the Colonial Office, and I think we may all congratulate ourselves of having advanced this matter in such a material degree as I have no doubt will result in promptly securing the establishment of this invaluable line of communication.

I beg to quote the telegram despatched yesterday by the Agent-General for New South Wales to the Premier of that Colony:-

"High Commissioner for Canada and Agents-General for the Australasian Colonies except South Australia and Western Australia had interview with Secretary of State for the Colonies to-day relating to Pacific cable. Mr. Chamberlain agreed to appoint a Commission as requested by Colonies. Great Britain, Canada and Australasian Colonies each to nominate two Commissioners, that is to say six in all. Repeat this joint telegram to other Colonial Governments including New Zealand and communicate here names of Colonies' nominees. Prompt action desirable. Terms of reference will be forwarded to you to-morrow, will include full enquiry into all details."

I am, &c.

(Sgd.) CHARLES TUPPER.

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