

ROUTE OF CABLE.

Offers will be received for laying the cable on each of the routes described as follows :—

ROUTE No. 1.

Commencing at Vancouver Island the cable to extend to Fanning Island, thence to a suitable island in the Fiji Group. From Fiji to Norfolk Island, and at that point the route will bifurcate to the northern part of New Zealand, and to a convenient point near the boundary between New South Wales and Queensland.

	Knots.
Vancouver Island to Fanning Island.....	3,232
Fanning Island to Fiji.....	1,715
Fiji to Norfolk Island.....	1,022
Norfolk Island to New Zealand.....	415
Norfolk Island to Tweed Mouth, near boundary New South Wales and Queensland.....	761
Total.....	<u>7,145</u>

ROUTE No. 2.

From Vancouver Island the cable to be laid to a small unoccupied island indicated on the charts as Necker Island, situated about 240 miles westward from the most western island of the Hawaiian Group and about 400 nautical miles from Honolulu. From Necker Island the cable to extend to Fiji, and thence, as in route No. 1 to New Zealand and Australia. On the section between Necker and Fiji possibly Howland Island or Baker Island may be available for a mid-station but the exact position has not been ascertained.

	Knots.
Vancouver Island to Necker Island.....	2,431
Necker Island to Fiji.....	2,546
Fiji to Norfolk Island.....	1,022
Norfolk Island to New Zealand.....	415
Norfolk to Tweed Mouth.....	761
Total.....	<u>7,175</u>

ROUTE No. 3.

As in route No. 2 the cable to extend from Vancouver Island to Necker Island, thence to Onoatua or some one of the eastern islands of the Gilbert Group. From this station in the Gilbert Group two branches to extend, one to Queensland and the other to New Zealand. The Queensland branch