

## THE CANADIAN TELEGRAPH ROUTE.

Yesterday I referred to the value of the Canadian Pacific Railway as a postal route to Australasia, and to the British Dependencies in Asia. The other means by which the public works of Canada may be turned to the use of the Empire is as a telegraph route. There can be no efficient intercourse nowadays without the telegraph. The Chairman, on the first day of the Conference, quoted from an excellent authority to show that general mercantile business cannot be economically conducted without the telegraph, that, in fact, the telegraph is an indispensable auxiliary to all commercial transactions between persons separated by distance. In this view I do not see it possible that any profitable business intercourse can spring up between Australasia and Canada without a direct telegraphic connection. It is quite true that already telegraph wires extend from Canada to England and from England to Australasia; but imagine for a moment business men on opposite sides of the Pacific being obliged to communicate with each other by sending messages round the globe no less than five-sixths of its whole circumference!

The heavy charges by the circuitous route, the delays and the risk of errors consequent on the numberless repetitions in the transmission of messages, would prove such an impediment to general intercourse as to render the existing line by way of Europe of little or no use. It could only be resorted to in extreme cases.

There cannot be a doubt that, if there are to be more intimate relations, if any progress is to be made towards a closer