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#### 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
<b>Total - - - - -</b>	<b>7,145</b>

##### 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
<b>Total - - - - -</b>	<b>7,175</b>

##### 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 to touch at San Christoval Island in the Solomon Group and terminate at Bowen, connecting at that point with the land lines, easterly to Brisbane and Sydney, westerly to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

	Knots.
Vancouver Island to Necker Island - - - - -	2,431
Necker Island to Onoatua (in Gilbert Group) - - - - -	1,917
Onoatua to Fiji - - - - -	980
Viti Levu to New Zealand - - - - -	1,004
Onoatua to San Christoval (Solomon Group) - - - - -	953
San Christoval to Bowen, Queensland - - - - -	980
<b>Total - - - - -</b>	<b>8,265</b>

##### Route No. 4.

As in routes Nos. 2 and 3 the cable to be laid from the northern terminal point to Necker Island. From Necker Island to extend in a direct course to Bowen, touching at Apamana, a central island in the Gilbert Group, and at San Christoval, of the Solomon Group.

	Knots.
Vancouver Island to Necker Island - - - - -	2,431
Necker Island to Apamana (Gilbert Group) - - - - -	1,865
Apamana to San Christoval (Solomon Group) - - - - -	970
San Christoval to Bowen, Queensland - - - - -	980
<b>Total - - - - -</b>	<b>6,246</b>