

extent the operation of cables laid by private companies. In a case such as that now laid between Australia and South Africa, where the route of the State cable would be parallel, the interference may be serious to the Company. In this case the Company should be dealt with in the most liberal spirit, and their cable available for that portion of the globe-encircling chain should be purchased at its full value for the use of the State. The remaining cables of the Company would remain to be utilised in the mutual interchange of traffic under arrangements to be agreed upon. In respect to this question it will always be borne in mind that the object of the Empire Cables is not competitive; that the primary object is the solution of a great Imperial problem; and that many far-seeing men are of opinion that a solution will not be achieved by any other means.

If, as in the case of the Pacific Cable Board and the Eastern Extension Company, there be some clashing of public and private interests, the incident is unavoidable, and in the end the interests of the Empire must prevail. The Pacific Cable should be regarded as the initial link of the globe-girdling chain, and it can never be forgotten that its establishment was determined on by six British Governments, that the deed of State partnership was executed on the last day of the century, and that this inheritance from the Victorian era is pregnant with beneficent consequences to coming generations.

In my letter to Lord Elgin, which I have already mentioned, the matter is referred to. The whole subject is also exhaustively dealt with in a little book (*The All-Red Line*) recently published by Edward Stanford, Long Acre, London. In chapter ix. Dr. Morse specially considers "Imperial Partnership in a Cable System." The Canadian Parliamentary Returns, Nos. 67 and 67A, issued a few weeks ago, contain a number of documents in which the subject is discussed; on page 34 will be found a paper on State Cables and Cheap Telegraphy as aids to Imperial consolidation, and much information will be found on pages 41 to 50, embracing the papers circulated over the world