

Australia are now brought into close relationship by means of the Pacific Cable. The Imperial Telegraph System will embrace in its circuit round the Globe, three great oceans, the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean. The immediate object is to traverse these oceans and the intervening territories by a continuous chain of nationalized cable telegraphs. This, the crowning achievement, will cost in round figures, £4,000,000, more or less, an insignificant expenditure of capital in view of the immensely important results to be attained. It would do more for the Empire as a whole than twenty times the amount spent in any other way whatever. It would set at rest many difficulties. It would place the telegraph service of the Empire on a secure and satisfactory basis, and render alienation of the leading cables impossible. It would be a fresh tie between all the over-sea Dominions and the Motherland of great practical utility; it would minimize transmission charges and prodigiously increase the volume of telegraphic intercourse; it would benefit trade, vitalize the spirit of patriotism and strengthen the sentiment which constitute the most enduring foundation on which the Empire of the future can be built up. The circumstances are such, and the benefits so many and so great, that whatever the cost, the pan-Britannic telegraph service should, as speedily as possible be carried to completion.

The establishment of such a service would affect the existing companies. The national telegraph encircling the globe would become the main or trunk line of communication between the self-governing portions of the Empire. The existing private cables would, to a large extent, and in many instances assume the position of branches to the trunk line, and as such would find employment in general and especially in international traffic. The charges for transmission by the trunk line would be lowered to a minimum, so as merely to cover cost of operating, interest and maintenance, and as a consequence, the business would be immensely increased. The private companies would gain by the increase, and likewise by the reduced charges on the main line, as they would thus be supplied with much profitable business for general dissemination.

The private cables were for the most part established with commendable enterprise many years ago. They received generous Government assistance. They have done useful pioneer work and this work has already yielded to the enterprising investors rich returns. The time has come, however, when circumstances demand a change. It has become a matter