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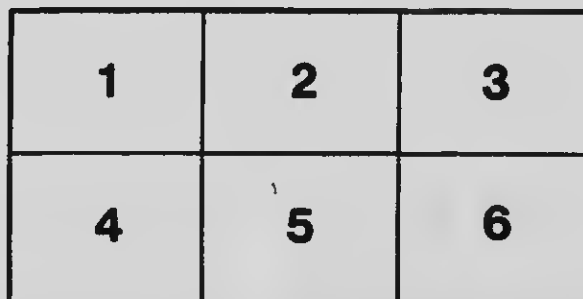
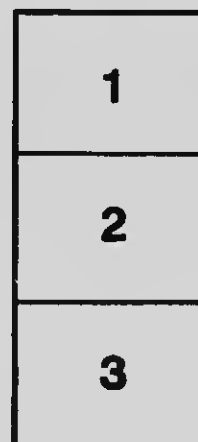
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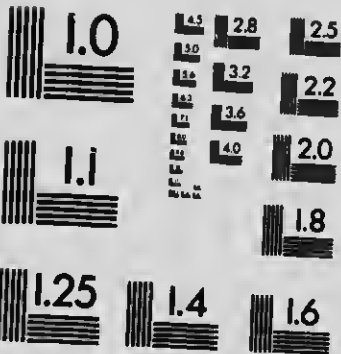
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The Canadian Press Association.

ADDRESS BY

Sir Sandford Fleming.

This address in effect points out:—

- (1) That greatly reduced rates and other important advantages would result from the nationalization of telegraph service within the Dominion and between the Dominion and the United Kingdom.
- (2) That while such nationalization would have for its primary object the immediate benefit of Canada, it would incidentally constitute a great link in a chain of State-owned telegraphs to encircle the globe.
- (3) That the new national avenue of communication thus created would form the basis of a distinct advance in the development of closer relations between the several communities of British people in both hemispheres.

1402

CHEAP TELEGRAPH RATES.

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
CANADIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION, FEBRUARY 28TH, 1902
BY SIR SANDFORD FLEMING.

MR. PRESIDENT.

You have been good enough to invite me to address this meeting on Cheaper Telegraph Rates, for the reason that my name for some years back has been identified with the subject. I regard it as a high privilege to be allowed to address a body of men representing the recognised organs of public opinion. You have paid me a great compliment, and my satisfaction is enhanced by the fact that I have been asked to speak on a subject to which I have long and earnestly devoted my attention.

Ruskin tells us that "the weakest among us has a gift; however seemingly trivial, which is peculiar to him and which worthily used will be a gift to his race." Whether Ruskin be right or wrong, I have indulged the thought, and acted on the belief, that however feeble the force, persistency of effort will, in the long run, make up for lack of power. Imbued with this idea, I have for over twenty years imposed upon myself a task closely associated with the subject which you have given me,—a task which has led me, without hope of personal reward, to visit five continents and traverse all the great oceans—one of them, the Atlantic, many times. In this self-imposed duty, I can at least say that however poor and inadequate the services, they have been given willingly and without stint.

Such being the case, I rejoice to have the opportunity, which you have given me, to throw some light on a problem of great public importance which I have been doing my share in trying to work out. I shall commence by expressing the satisfaction which I feel that this association is deeply interested in the same problem, and that, at the last annual meeting, you took important action respecting it. I am very proud to rank myself as a co-worker with you, inasmuch as I have the most exalted opinion of the power and mission of the Press. I feel that anything that I have done, or anything that I can do, is as nothing compared with what you can accomplish.

Examining your records, it appears that resolutions were unanimously passed at your last annual meeting in favour of the Government taking steps to establish a State-owned cable between Canada and Great Britain, and to nationalize the land telegraphs of the Dominion, the charges for the transmission of messages in both cases to be reduced to the actual operating cost. Perhaps I may mention that, on every suitable occasion, during the past year I gave my advocacy and support to the policy and principles laid down in your resolution. Moreover, the present year had barely commenced when I made public a letter on Postal Telegraph Service by sea and land, addressed to the Post Master General, the Hon. Wm. Mulock. It is dated January 1st, 1902, and in the remarks I am about to submit, I

shall regard the contents as known to you. In that letter, I pointed out the immediate advantages to the people of the Dominion which would result from carrying into effect the resolution which you passed, I desire on this occasion to go a little farther and indicate that, beyond the direct benefits to Canada, there is a great ulterior purpose to be served by the adoption by Parliament of the policy laid down by you. This ulterior purpose, I shall with your kind permission endeavour to explain. Let me first, however, say a word respecting the marvelous system of telegraphy introduced by Marconi.

THE MARCONI SYSTEM.

The distinguished inventor, before visiting Ottawa a few weeks ago, startled the world by his successful efforts to transmit electric wave signals across the Atlantic. I had the great satisfaction to have several interviews with Signor Marconi, who is of opinion that only a few months will be required to develop and fully reveal the possibilities of his system. He confidently expects to be able to send telegraph messages between the two continents without the intervention of submarine cables, and that, in consequence of the comparatively small initial cost of apparatus, the charge for the transmission of messages will be very low, compared with the present rates. If this proves to be the case, we may certainly regard the Marconi system, not as an opponent of, but as an ally of cheap telegraphy. Negotiations opened by the Government resulted as stated in the speech from the throne at the opening of Parliament, "in an arrangement through which, should the project prove a successful one, as is hoped for, the Government and people of Canada will enjoy the benefits of the invention on very favourable terms, including rates for trans-Atlantic messages very much below those now existing."

While it is greatly to be wished that the highest expectations will be realized, we must recognise that doubts have been raised and, notwithstanding the splendid results already achieved by the inventor of wireless telegraphy, some of the leading English authorities on electrical science, such as Professor Olvov Lodge, Sir William Preece, Dr. Muirhead, Lord Kelvin and others, are of opinion that the system will be found to have its limitations, and that the greatest success possible for it will not suffice to render submarine cables unnecessary.

Marconi himself, when on this side of the Atlantic, entertained no fear of failure, he was full of hope that he would prove his invention to be a complete commercial success, and he expressed the belief that he would be able to transmit messages across the Atlantic with ample profit, at one or two cents per word. The impression formed in my own mind was that of admiration for the great inventor, who had already done marvelous things in wireless telegraphy, and whose hopes for success in spanning the ocean, if realized, would pass his name on to future generations as that of a world benefactor.

It appears, however, that there is a Marconi company to be reckoned with, and that in financial matters the distinguished inventor has not I fear all his own way. I would infer from what has come to light that the over-ruling company in this case—like other com-

panies, is more bent on dividends and profits, than on benefitting the public, and that it has adopted the policy of charging rates very much higher than Marconi himself seemed at one time to consider necessary. This is of course merely the conclusion I have arrived at after learning the terms stipulated by the company in the arrangement with the Government. Instead of the very low rate expected, the Marconi Company claims ten cents per word for the transmission of ordinary messages.

Taken by itself, a reduction from twenty-five cents to ten cents per word is a great step in the right direction, and the arrangement entered into by the Government, to effect, if possible, the desired end, may be regarded as to a large extent, satisfactory and wise. A reduction of 60 per cent. on present charges, assuming that the experiments and trials, soon to be undertaken, succeed, will prove a great public benefit, and its influence for good will be felt in many ways.

I confess, however, to a feeling of disappointment that the Marconi company has not seen its way to make the rate considerably lower. In my letter to the Postmaster-General of January last, I pointed out that by establishing a direct State-owned cable, ordinary trans-Atlantic messages could be transmitted for five cents a word and that there would be the prospect of a further reduction as traffic increased. Under these circumstances it seems to me more than likely that unless the Marconi Company can perform the service for half, or less than half, the rate stipulated, it will not be possible for it to give to the Canadian public, permanent satisfaction. Our requirements demand the speediest and cheapest means of communication such as a self-supporting State-owned cable could give.

ATLANTIC CABLE SERVICE.

As judgment has to be suspended in the matter of the Marconi system, it may not meanwhile be without profit to consider the alternative. In doing so, I shall not tax your patience by repeating the arguments I advanced in my letter to Mr. Mulock, in respect to the establishment of a State-owned trans-Atlantic cable. I furnished evidence to prove that such a cable if employed only about two hours a day, would, at the existing tariff of charges, be self-supporting. I shewed that there is practically within sight, business to keep it going for twelve hours a day at the rate of five cents per word, and I pointed out that, if employed up to its maximum limit, the earnings would be sufficient to meet interest on cost, sinking fund to replace capital, maintenance and all operating expenses, if no higher rate be levied on messages than two cents per word. I do not recommend beginning with the extremely low rate of two cents, but I can see no reason why a five cent tariff should not be the standard for ordinary messages from the first. All such messages would be despatched in the order in which they would be received. Urgent messages for which a preference in delivery is desired, would be subject to an extra charge for that privilege. Obviously a reduction from twenty-five cents a word to a standard rate of five cents for ordinary messages

would popularize trans-Atlantic correspondence, and render it available for purposes for which it has not hitherto been used. Possibly a fair price for Press despatches would be half rate, that is to say two and a half cents a word.

The proposal has been generally well received in Great Britain as well as in Canada. True, one or two anonymous letters have appeared in the Times and other London papers, written obviously in the interests of the cable companies, but my arguments in favour of the proposal remain unanswered.

An Atlantic cable under Government control would, by lowering charges eighty per cent., interfere more or less with the existing cables. That interference would, however, be merely an incident, as the objects to be achieved by the establishment of the new cable are, not competitive, but purely national. Should the effect be to lower generally trans-Atlantic rates, the augmentation of business, which certainly would follow in a few years, would prevent revenue suffering to any great extent.

In order that the companies' business may be interfered with as little as possible, it may be advisable to introduce the reduced charges by a gradual process. For example, the average length of an ordinary message is probably six or seven words, costing for transmission six or seven shillings. If by arrangement, the minimum price of a message be placed, in the first instance, at four shillings or one dollar, by all cables, both old and new lines would transmit dollar messages; the only difference would be in the number of words transmitted; in the one case it would be six words, in the other twenty. Either way, there would be manifest advantages to the public. By some such arrangement, a Canadian cable may be established across the Atlantic with a minimum of interference with existing cable lines.

STATE CONTROL OF LAND LINES.

To nationalize the land telegraphs of the Dominion is, probably, of the two questions, the one which concerns us in Canada most intimately. I shall therefore with permission, submit some remarks on the criticisms relating to the proposal which have appeared in the Canadian press. I have always pointed to the Postal telegraph system of the United Kingdom as a model to be imitated in its essential features, for the reason that it is a remarkable public service, unparalleled in any part of the world. The telegraph lines were owned in the first place, by railway and other private companies. They were expropriated on the authority of an act of Parliament and have since then been controlled and extended for a period of over thirty years by the Government. By means of the State owned telegraph system, any person in the three Kingdoms can send to any other person, however remote, a message of 12 words, for 6 pence, and each additional word, for one halfpenny. Almost every post office is a telegraph station, and if the person to whom the message is addressed, lives three miles away from an office, the telegram is sent to him without extra charge and the messenger instructed to

receive a reply if one be required. Personal experience satisfies me that there is nothing to excel the British postal telegraph service for cheapness, accuracy, utility, and despatch. The proposal is to have the system as far as practicable and applicable, introduced in Canada, of course, with such modifications as experience has proved to be advisable, and the conditions of the country suggest, to be expedient.

Some of our newspapers in noticing the proposal, suggest, very properly, that caution should be observed, and that no irrevocable step be taken until its wisdom be well assured. The suggestion is perhaps mainly owing to the fact that we are in the habit of hearing that, while the mail service of the United Kingdom earns immense profits, the telegraph branch is a source of expense. To arrive at the actual facts, I have made a careful examination of the Post Office returns to the Imperial Parliament and other official documents. In the last report of the Post Master General it appears that the total receipts of the telegraph branch for the year 1900-1901 was £3,429,453, and the expenditure £3,812,569, showing a deficiency of £383,216.

With respect to this deficiency and the cause of it, there can be no better authority than the Post Master General himself. His report for 1895 and appended documents point out that, for the preceding 25 years, during which period the telegraphs had been under Government control, the receipts exceeded the expenditure by a total sum of £1,795,000, equal to an average annual surplus of £71,800. This does not however include the charge for interest on the purchase money of the original lines, which is now however included and forms the major part of the deficiency. This interest charge on capital is £298,000, but the report itself furnishes evidence to show that it is far larger than it should be.

The revenue is further hindered by various charges, which as it seems to me, are quite unnecessary. I have already mentioned one of those, the portage on messages sent three miles from the post office free of charge. In all such cases, the messages are usually carried by hand, and no doubt it is a great convenience to those who live a little way in the country, but it should not be done at the public expense. The remedy is simple, to charge for portage, or use a telephone as we do in Canada.

Again several railway companies had conceded to them thirty years ago the right to free transmission of all their telegrams, and it appears that these free telegrams have increased out of all proportion to the growth of public telegrams. It is estimated that the loss to the treasury from this cause alone now exceeds the sum of £80,000 or \$400,000 per annum.

But the matter which most seriously affects the receipts is the extremely low and unremunerative rates charged for Press despatches. The Post Master General states in his report of August 2nd 1901 that "the Press telegrams entail a heavy financial burden on the telegraph service." The charge for press telegrams in the United Kingdom is the lowest in the world and the amount of work performed for the

press is without a parallel in any other country. In the year ending March 31, 1901, the average weekly number of words in press telegrams was 16,065.502 equal to about 835,000,000 words per annum. This enormous volume of business involving not far short of half the domestic telegraph work of the country, was performed at a charge totally inadequate to meet the actual cost.

During last year, 1,083,000,000 words were transmitted in ordinary public telegrams yielding £2,257,399, while 835,000,000 words were sent by wire in press despatches which contributed to the revenue only £141,600. The former is at the rate of a half penny per word, the later for Press work represents 12 words for a halfpenny.

In Canada the press rates, as I am informed, range from 25 cents up to a dollar per hundred words; if the press despatches of the United Kingdom were charged at the very lowest Canadian press rate, that is to say, at quarter of a cent a word, there would be an annual surplus after paying interest on capital and every other charge.

Sir William Preece, lately at the head of the Telegraph branch of the Post Office, states in "St. Martin-le-grand" for last October, that the unremunerative rates charged for press despatches entails an actual loss to the department roughly estimated at £400,000 a year." Another writer thus expresses his views in explanation of the course followed. Referring to the deficiency in the balance sheet he says "this of course means no more than that the government are persuaded of the educational value of the press, that it gives a sum equal to this large shortage in the shape of a bonus to the newspapers. It is another form of applying the principle of aiding in the diffusion of newspaper information, which in Canada and the United States is done by nominal charges for transportation."

These facts and explanations furnish reasons for the adverse balance as it appears in the accounts of the telegraph branch of the General Post Office, and as the nominal deficiency is not owing to any defect in the general system, and as there is no actual loss to the public, both parliament and taxpayer have no difficulty in overlooking the absence of a financial balance on the right side of the account, in view of the inestimable benefits which the service confers on the community.

There is one feature of the British telegraph service of peculiar importance, and that is the adoption of a uniform charge for all distances. As I have dwelt on this point at some length in my letter to Mr. Mulock, to which I have so frequently referred, I shall only re-affirm the view I hold, that in no country would a uniform charge for telegrams be of greater general advantage than in Canada. We have already, in common with the mother country, adopted the principles of uniformity of charges in the mail service. In both countries a postage stamp will carry a letter to any place near or remote, and every argument in favour of applying the principle to the carriage of letters, applies with ten fold force to the transmission of despatches by

telegraph. Long experience in the British Islands, and indeed, wherever the principle has been applied, amply confirms the wisdom of the policy of charging the same rate for all distances. It must, however, be distinctly borne in mind, that in no country does it appear to have been possible to put the principle in practice without first placing the telegraph lines under Government control.

At present, the rates charged are graduated according to distance and range, from 25 cents a message, and upwards. With the service brought under State control, the lowest rate should at once I think be made uniform for all distances.

With respect to the general principle of Government control, little need be said. From the earliest days, the Government of every civilized nation on the face of the earth has taken charge of the conveyance of letters and correspondence, and, as a rule, they have always employed the best available means of doing so. At one time the mails were carried on horseback, at another period by stage coach. In more recent times, the Governments have not hesitated to have the people's correspondence conveyed by steam power. To-day, a far speedier, and I may add, far cheaper agency than steam, that is to say, electricity, is at command, and we may ask ourselves the question, is it not incumbent on the Government to take the fullest advantage of this heaven sent means of conquering time and distance?

I submit for your consideration, three remarkable facts.

(1) Canada remains the only country in the British Empire where the telegraph service is not state-owned.

(2) With two single exceptions, Canada and the United States, the telegraph service of every civilized nation on the face of the globe is controlled by the State.

(3) In Canada and the United States, the charges for the transmission of telegraph messages are practically double the rates charged in all other civilized countries.

I leave it with you, gentlemen of the "Fourth Estate" to determine how long this condition of affairs should last in this British Dominion.

GREAT ULTERIOR BENEFITS.

"A cheaper telegraph service."—The subject on which I have been asked to address you is not simply a domestic question concerning Canada alone; it is a matter of Imperial and inter-Colonial concern and may well be considered not only by the Canadian Press Association, but by the statesmen who will be gathered together at the coming conference in London next June. On that occasion, it may "be assumed that the bend of the Colonial Secretary's mind will be found in accordance with the desire of the Colonial representatives."

At this stage in the History of the British people, a wide-spread interest has arisen in Imperial matters. The South African War has given to the Imperial idea a great impulse. As we view it from a Canadian standpoint, we feel ourselves awakened to the fact that the Dominion of Canada forms no inconsiderable part of the surface of the Globe which is designated British, and that if we do our part aright

we should take a leading place in a great political organization—The British Empire—now in process of growth and development. Our geographical position is in itself commanding. Writing in 1894 the Colonial editor of the Times said of Canada, "She possesses without question a position of central importance in the British Empire, the Atlantic Ocean gives her natural communication with the United Kingdom and South Africa; the Pacific offers her equally easy communication with India and Australia and the East. She commands the commercial highroad of two hemispheres."

Is it not fitting then that we should bestir ourselves? that we should not allow the besetting sin of apathy to obtrude itself? that we should in all respects perform the filial duties befitting the eldest daughter in the great family of British nations?

Today, the widely sundered groups of British people comprising diverse races and creeds and languages, are animated by a community of sentiment; they have fallen heir to great possessions in all quarters of the globe, and it is surely one of their first duties to safeguard, to consolidate, and develop their magnificent heritage.

To bring the Empire into shape and form many things are needed; in not a few of these we Canadians can render yeoman aid; in some things we may, indeed, as we have already done in the matter of Imperial penny postage, take a leading part. I propose to point out what Canada can do for the Empire by placing the telegraph service by land and sea, between Vancouver and London under State control.

At the Press Banquet last night, where I had the honour to be a favoured guest, it was pointed out very forcibly by the Premier that, in the interest of unity, stability and progress, one of the most important offices of the Press is to cultivate friendly relations between the various elements of the population. "In my own time" said Sir Wilfred, "I have seen daily and yearly the work of unification of our country." "The members of the Association have done a great deal to promote that harmony"—this feeling would grow, the more the people of the several Provinces became acquainted with each other."

Is not this beneficent function of the Press of wide application? I think you will all concede that the King's subjects everywhere should be better acquainted than they now are; that, as far as possible, the several great groups of British people around the globe should be on terms of intimacy. I ask, does that condition now prevail? what intimacy have we with our nearest British neighbours on the western side? What do New Zealanders and Australians know of us, or we of them? The answer is,—next to nothing; and how under present conditions could any intimacy, if it existed, be maintained? As Professor Short pointed out in the last Canadian magazine, the component parts of the Empire stand most in need of a better knowledge of each other. To this end, we have to invoke the powerful good offices of the press, aided by the telegraph, the most perfect means yet discovered or likely to be discovered for the free interchange of knowledge.

A comprehensive telegraph system, extending to every British possession in both hemispheres has been projected, and, in order to reduce the cost of transmission to the lowest charge, it is held to be indispensable that the whole service should be under state control. The Pacific cable is regarded as the initial section of the Pan-Britanic system, and this great undertaking is now in progress under a board of management constituted by six British Governments. It will come to the memory of some present, and it will be remembered with pathetic interest, that the last public words spoken by a Canadian Premier, a few hours before he passed away at Windsor Castle, were, in reference to and in support of this the pioneer section of the Pan-Britannic telegraph system.

The Pacific cable is under contract to be completed within the present year: if its establishment be followed by the nationalization of the Canadian land telegraphs, together with a state controlled means of telegraphy across the Atlantic, a new and exceedingly important stage in the development of the all-British globe encircling telegraph system will have been reached. Then, it will be possible for the sister colonies, New Zealand and Australia to unite with Canada in extending the postal telegraph service of the mother country across the Atlantic and across the Pacific. Then, the Empire will be in possession of a continuous chain of state-controlled electric wires from London to the Indian Ocean, embracing in their circuit 247 degrees of longitude—more than two-thirds of the circumference of the globe.

One important point remains to be touched upon, the cost of telegraphy by the Imperial system. It may be gathered from what I have stated, that the charge for transmitting messages between London and Vancouver need not exceed 6 or 8 cents a word; and as Vancouver is not far from half way between the United Kingdom and Australasia, the charge for the whole distance should not be more than 14 or 18 cents per word. Of course it is recognized that if the Marconi Atlantic service proves successful, the laying of a state cable across the Atlantic may be deferred, and in that event the trans-Atlantic rate will in all probability for a time be ten cents, that is to say, five cents higher than I have estimated. But in any event the total charge for transmission between Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom should not exceed twenty-five cents or one shilling per word.

A shilling rate will be immensely appreciated in New Zealand and Australia where they have been always accustomed to excessively high telegraph charges. When I visited Australia eight years ago, I desired to telegraph friends in Canada and receive replies about once a week. On arriving at Sydney, I sent one message, but it cost so much—the charge being ten shillings and four pence per word—that I did not again indulge in the luxury of cabling to any extent.

This is not the place to allude to the powerful cable monopoly or the struggle between private gains and public benefits which has, ever since the first inception of the Pacific cable, been going on. Suffice it to say that the triumph of the public interest has com-

menced, that the telegraph charges between Australia and London are now reduced, and it may possibly be claimed, that the advocacy of the Pacific cable has had some effect in causing the reduction.

The present charge is now four shillings a word. The reduction to one shilling would be distinctly an outcome of the two Canadian proposals discussed and recommended by this association, and must hereafter be regarded as a service rendered by Canada, of inestimable value to the Empire. To make this plain, we have only to bear in mind that as New Zealand is antipodean to the British Islands, when the globe-encircling telegraph is completed there will be no place more remote from the Imperial centre than New Zealand. Obviously, therefore, the transmission charge on telegrams from any one of the King's possessions to any other, on any part of the surface of the globe should not be greater than one shilling a word. The maximum charge may indeed be less than a shilling. I am hopeful and sanguine enough to think that there are electrical discoveries yet in store, and that the triumphs of telegraphy will make still cheaper rates possible.

Members of this Association are awakened to the fact that existing charges for ocean telegraphy are far too high. We all know that the expense of cabling is practically prohibitive to the majority of people. It is only on matters of great urgency, or those in which large interests are at stake that cables are sent. Cables are employed by persons in official positions, by managers of large mercantile firms, by the very rich, and by those engaged in stock operations; but the majority of people do not use them. Moreover, by reason of the expense, many who use cables, resort to them as seldom as possible.

It is in the general interests that all this should be changed, that telegraphy should be popularized, and that every kind of hindrance to free intercourse be removed. It is felt that there should be nothing to prevent cables and telegraphs being as freely employed as the penny post.

To popularize telegraphy, by sea as well as by land, is to my mind a movement which concerns the British, more than any other people. We greatly require a postal telegraph service between all parts of the Empire, and above all things, we need rates so cheap that the service may be freely used by all classes. I have furnished evidence to show that Canada can greatly assist in the development of such a service, and it must be clear to all, that, when consummated, the improved and cheapened service will revolutionize the world's correspondence. In this age, the ordinary mail is fast becoming too slow and inadequate. Year by year, our wishes and our wants will, more and more seek to be made known by telegraph.

In concluding these sentences, Mr. President, in which I have endeavoured to comply with your request, I have referred to the resolutions which the Association passed a year ago, with respect to nationalizing the telegraphs of the Dominion and establishing a State controlled means of telegraphy across the Atlantic. I am perfectly

satisfied, that by carrying into effect these resolutions, Canada would secure for her people a much cheapened and more useful cable telegraph service, and that ulterior benefits of the very highest Imperial importance, would be the outcome. Thus in helping herself, Canada without farther effort, without the smallest risk, and without any additional cost, would inaugurate a policy immensely far-reaching and beneficent. Almost immediately, the kindred communities of New Zealand and Australia would feel its good effects; eventually its benefits would extend to India, South Africa and elsewhere, and thus, in promoting our own domestic interests in the matter of telegraphy, we would contribute to the advancement and well being of the whole Empire in a substantial, thoroughly practical and effective manner.

ADDENDA.

It was said by one gentlemen at the meeting that a single cable across the Atlantic might prove inadequate and that as a protection against interruptions it would be advisable to have it laid in duplicate. I ask permission to add by way of explanation, that a similar view was expressed before the Imperial Pacific Cable Committee, which met in London in 1893. It was indeed urged by some witnesses that cables laid across any ocean should be laid in duplicate. I was then in London and in reply to the allegation, submitted to the Committee as follows (*vide* Canadian Parliamentary Return No. 51 for 1899 page 77).

In the evidence submitted to the committee it has been alleged as absolutely necessary, if a trans-Pacific cable be laid at all, that it should be laid in duplicate. Curiously enough the gentlemen who have laid greatest stress on the necessity for two cables across the Pacific are among those most averse to the establishment of a Pacific cable under any circumstances. It has been made to appear that a single cable has been rarely laid in any part of the world, and that in cases where two cables are not laid side by side at the same time, duplication immediately follows. Mr. Preece could not recall an instance of any company relying on a single cable. The impression conveyed was that provision is made for laying both cables from the start, or directly on the completion of one cable, the work of laying the second invariably is proceeded with. I take the liberty of mentioning that this course is not universally followed.

The Eastern Extension Company's cable from Madras to Penang was single for 21 years; the first cable was laid in 1870, it was duplicated in 1891.

The cable of the same company from Penang to Singapore was laid in 1870, it was duplicated in 1892, 22 years afterwards.

The same company laid a single cable from Australia to Tasmania in 1869, and duplicated it in 1887, after a lapse of 18 years.

The same company laid a single cable from Australia to New Zealand in 1876; the second cable was not laid until 1885.

The Cape of Good Hope had telegraphic communications established by a single cable in 1879; duplication was not effected until 10 years afterwards.

A single cable was laid from Portugal to Brazil in 1874 and it was not duplicated until 1884.

There are many other instances; I have, however, mentioned a sufficient number to make plain that there is no such rule invariably followed as that alleged. The duplication of a cable is a matter which is entirely governed by circumstances; generally it is proceeded with when additional facilities are required by the traffic, or warranted by the prospect of a rapid development of business.

I am perfectly satisfied that eventually many cables will be required across the Pacific, but to my mind there is no necessity for establishing more than one at present.

The Imperini Committee decided to recommend the establishment of one cable, leaving its duplication to be followed at some future time "when the success of the undertaking warranted a fresh outlay of capital."

That was the wise decision reached by the committee presided over by Lord Selborne, and of which Lord Stratheona and Hon. A. G. Jones, Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia were members.

My own frequently expressed views in harmony therewith, are, that one cable will be sufficient until a second is really demanded by increased telegraph traffic, and that meanwhile a substitute for duplication of both Atlantic and Pacific cables may be obtained in quite another, far more useful and far more effective way. That is to say, by taking steps to extend State-control over deep sea cables from Western Australia, via the Cape to England. By so doing both Atlantic and Pacific Cables will form portions of the "round the world system," when every point touched will be doubly connected with every other point. It will be at once recognized that this arrangement would obviate any necessity for incurring a double capital expenditure on cables to lie idle at the bottom of the ocean, waiting for an interruption which may not happen. The same expenditure would go a long way towards completing the globe girdling telegraph system which would admit of messages being transmitted either westerly or easterly, and should any emergency arise to prevent them crossing the Atlantic they could still, under ordinary circumstances, be sent in the opposite direction. Obviously, instead of sinking money on two cables laid side by side, one of which for the present would be little used, the wiser policy would be to inaugurate the Pan-Britannic telegraph service so as to cheapen communications and provide the freest means of intercourse for the several groups of British people in the four quarters of the globe. Assuredly one of the first results of such a service, would be to reduce greatly the cost of telegraphy all over the world; while its undoubted tendency would be to vitalize the broadest patriotism and realize the dream of the United Empire Loyalists and all imbued with the true Canadian spirit.

