

PACIFIC CABLE.

The Hon. the President, Postal and Telegraph Conference, Wellington,
to the Hon. the Premier, Ottawa.

Post and Telegraph Conference, Wellington,
New Zealand, 18th April, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith copy of a Resolution in relation to the proposed Canadian-Pacific cable, passed at the Australasian Postal and Telegraph Conference, which commenced its sittings at Wellington on the 5th ultimo.

You will observe that the terms of the Resolution suggest that the countries interested in securing cable communication between Canada and the Australasian Colonies should join in guaranteeing for fourteen years a sum of £72,000 per annum—the amount of interest on the proposed capital—to any company undertaking the laying of a Pacific cable by either of the routes mentioned; and the Representatives to the Conference, with the exception of those from South and West Australia, will recommend their Governments to this effect. I have accordingly to ask whether your country will be prepared to join the Colonies in the proposed guarantee, and, if so, I venture to express the hope that the interests of your country will admit of your Government being able to affirm its determination to bear a substantial proportion of the cost. I shall also be glad to hear at the same time that you will co-operate with the Colonies in securing the assistance of the Imperial Government in the guarantee.

I have, &c.

J G WARD, President.

The Hon. the Premier, Ottawa, Canada.

Resolution—Canadian Pacific Cable.

Resolved—"That, considering the important interests involved, both of a national and commercial character, in the establishment of a Pacific cable, the Representatives of the respective Colonies assembled at this Conference recommend their Governments to consider the desirability of entering into a guarantee with the other countries interested, for a period not exceeding fourteen years, and to guarantee interest at 4 per cent. on a capital of not more than £1,800,000 to any company undertaking the laying of a Pacific Cable, the tariff not to exceed 3s. per word for ordinary telegrams, 2s. per word for Government telegrams, and 1s. 6d. per word for Press telegrams, to and from Great Britain and the Colonies; and that the United Kingdom be asked to join in the guarantee, the routes to be either of the following:—Brisbane to Ahipara Bay (New Zealand,) Ahipara Bay to Suva, Suva to Apia, Apia to Fanning Island, Fanning Island to Sandwich Island, Sandwich Island to Vancouver; or from New Zealand to Suva, Suva to Apia, Apia to Fanning Island, Fanning Island to Sandwich Islands, Sandwich Islands to Vancouver"

The Hon. the Premier, Ottawa, to the Hon. the President of the
Postal and Telegraph Conference, Wellington.

DEAR SIR,

Office of the Minister of Justice,
Ottawa, 16th May, 1894.

In reply to your letter of the 18th April, which I have just received, I beg to say that the Government of Canada has not formulated any policy guaranteeing aid to the proposed trans-Pacific cable. The matter will no doubt be fully discussed at the coming Conference to be held here next month, but in the meantime no assurance can be given that the Canadian Government will be in a position to make any appropriation in aid of the project.

Yours, &c.

JNO. S. D THOMPSON

The Hon. J G WARD, President, Postal Telegraph Conference,
Wellington, New Zealand.

The Hon. the President of the Postal and Telegraph Conference, New Zealand,
to the Railway Companies in the United States.

Postal and Telegraph Conference, New Zealand, 1894.
Wellington, 18th April, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith copy (see enclosure in letter to Postmaster-General, Washington), of a Resolution passed by the Australasian Postal and Telegraph Conference which sat in this city last month.

The Resolution refers, you will perceive, to the very heavy charges which have to be paid for the United States territorial transit on closed mails from the Colonies. It is with reference to those that I am desired to submit for your consideration the accompanying table showing the difference between the Postal Union territorial transit rates and those levied by the railroad companies of the United States, and to