

The cable between Honolulu and the Philippines, *via* Midway Island and Guam, which has been laid by the Commercial Pacific Cable Company, was opened for traffic on the 25th July last. This gives San Francisco direct cable communication with China, Japan, and other points in the East.

The Pacific Cable Board, by arrangement with the German Transatlantic Cable Company, has been able to reduce the rate to Germany to 3s. a word. It is hoped that a similar reduction may be possible later on to other places in Europe.

## CABLE BUSINESS.

The number and value of cable messages forwarded from New Zealand during 1903 are shown in the following statement. (The Pacific cable was opened for traffic—New Zealand to Southport and Suva, 23rd April, 1902; New Zealand to Vancouver, 8th December following.)

*Viâ Pacific.*

| Destination.          | Ordinary.           |              | Press.              |           |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|
|                       | Number of Messages. | Value.       | Number of Messages. | Value.    |
| International ... ..  | 16,438              | £ 28,040 7 1 | 40                  | £ 76 16 8 |
| Australia ... ..      | 56,157              | 11,472 12 1  | 285                 | 220 4 0   |
| Total for 1903 ... .. | 72,595              | 39,512 19 2  | 325                 | 297 0 8   |
| Total for 1902 ... .. | 42,358              | 19,053 11 11 | 367                 | 369 18 3  |

*Viâ Extension.*

| Destination.          | Ordinary.           |             | Press.              |            |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|
|                       | Number of Messages. | Value.      | Number of Messages. | Value.     |
| International ... ..  | 4,388               | £ 7,839 1 6 | 167                 | £ 338 13 0 |
| Australia ... ..      | 11,963              | 2,505 9 10  | 1,103               | 599 17 5   |
| Total for 1903 ... .. | 16,351              | 10,344 11 4 | 1,270               | 938 10 5   |
| Total for 1902 ... .. | 34,499              | 27,089 0 5  | 1,463               | 1,402 10 1 |

The colony's outward international and Australian cable business, not including Press, for the years 1902 and 1903 was as follows:—

*International.*

|             | Number of Messages. | Value.            |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|             |                     | £ s. d.           |
| 1903 ... .. | 20,826              | 35,879 8 7        |
| 1902 ... .. | 14,893              | 31,766 15 6       |
|             | Inc. 5,933*         | Inc. 4,112 13 1†  |
|             | * 39·83 per cent.   | † 12·95 per cent. |

*Australia.*

|             | Number of Messages. | Value.           |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------|
|             |                     | £ s. d.          |
| 1903 ... .. | 68,120              | 13,978 1 11      |
| 1902 ... .. | 61,964              | 14,375 16 10     |
|             | Inc. 6,156*         | Dec. 397 14 11†  |
|             | * 9·93 per cent.    | † 2·76 per cent. |