

advisable to secure beforehand the co-operation of the cable administrations throughout the world. For this purpose the Postmaster-General discussed the proposals with the British and American cable companies, and after obtaining their approval of them, entered into negotiations with foreign Governments. As a result, such a measure of general agreement has been reached that there is every prospect that within the next few months it will be possible for messages in plain language to be sent at half the existing rates of charge, subject only to the condition that the transmission of them must await, for a period not exceeding twenty-four hours, an interval during which the cable is not in use for traffic at the ordinary rates. It is hoped that the concession will confer an appreciable boon upon the general public who may desire to communicate with friends at a distance, without incurring on the one side the great expense of a cable message at full rates, or on the other the long delay involved by use of the post.

15. The following statement shows the progress of the international traffic since the opening of the cable:—

Number of Messages and Words dealt with.—International.

Year.	Messages.				Words.			
	Ordinary.	Government.	Press.	Total.	Ordinary.	Government.	Press.	Total.
*1902-3	18,494	915	35	19,444	202,313	24,210	1,831	228,354
1903-4	64,595	3,128	890	68,613	744,034	83,116	†37,819	864,969
1904-5	67,677	3,018	387	71,082	781,028	71,575	19,110	871,713
1905-6	77,331	3,109	259	80,699	834,778	74,763	13,225	922,766
1906-7	93,533	3,983	302	97,818	1,010,133	101,307	17,222	†1,128,662
1907-8	98,964	4,292	1,918	105,174	1,041,433	105,519	†84,940	1,231,892
1908-9	98,186	4,617	1,009	103,812	1,012,998	116,847	§95,203	1,225,048
1909-10	109,384	4,841	1,438	115,663	1,109,639	120,415	126,081	1,356,135
1910-11	117,770	6,413	4,971	129,154	1,215,306	166,812	467,495	1,849,613

* Cable opened for international traffic, 8th December, 1902. † English cricket team in Australia. ‡ Sydney office opened. § American fleet visit to Australasian waters. || Reduced Press rate and new Canadian service.

In addition to the above, a very considerable intercolonial traffic is carried between Australia, New Zealand, and the Fijis, keeping the southern sections of the cable fully occupied during business hours.

I have, &c.,

H. W. PRIMROSE, Chairman.

The Secretary, His Majesty's Treasury, Whitehall, S.W.

PACIFIC CABLE BOARD (1 EDWARD VII c. 31).—ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1911.

I.—STATEMENT showing the Sum issued out of the Consolidated Fund and the Expenditure.

—	Year in which issued.	Amount.		—	Amount.	
		£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Sum issued (out of an authorized issue of £2,000,000)	1901-2	1,060,935	0 0	Expenditure in the period ended 31st March, 1910	1,999,127	1 10
Sum issued (out of an authorized issue of £2,000,000)	1902-3	939,065	0 0	Expenditure in the period ended 31st March, 1911	Cr. 1,551	6 9
				Balance in hand	1,997,575	15 1
					2,424	4 11
		2,000,000	0 0		2,000,000	0 0

II.—STATEMENT showing the Sums borrowed and the Securities created.

—	Amount.		Money borrowed.		Securities created.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
Sum issued as above	2,000,000	0 0	In the period ending 31st March, 1902	784,600	0 0	Annuity of £77,544 18s. First payment, 1st December, 1903. Last payment, 1st December, 1952.
			In the year to 31st March, 1903	1,215,400	0 0	
	2,000,000	0 0		2,000,000	0 0	