

munication with Europe and British North America would thus lose the advantages, if any, derived from the present system and throw the control of the wires more completely into the hands of the United States. He would yield to no one in a fair opposition to monopoly or in the support of measures for the country's good, but a primary consideration with him was to respect the equitable claims of institutions whose establishment had been beneficial to the civilized world. The language of his hon. friend (Mr. Miller) in reference to Newfoundland had somewhat surprised him, and he would ask was it a judicious course or likely to encourage the union of that Island with the Dominion to talk in a dictatorial and imperious strain of coercing her in her freedom of legislation, over which she had the right of undisputed control? He feared that a threat had been held out not only in this debate, but that the bill before the House was in itself a standing threat to the effect that unless Newfoundland granted the legislation which we required, and which involved a breach of contract on her part, we would deprive her of the telegraphic connexion with this continent which she now possesses, and which, tearing up the cable on the coast of Nova Scotia as we threaten to do, would destroy. With reference to the time which had been given to the company to prepare its defence against the aggressions of this bill, it was only about seven days ago that the first intimation was sent to Mr. Field, to New York; unfortunately that gentleman was not there, but in the far West—in Utah, among the Mormons, (laughter), on his way to San Francisco. Of course he was thus deprived of the chance of understanding the detailed enactments of the bill, or of making any but the short general suggestions to oppose it. About the same time a communication was sent to the central office of the company in London, and they lost no time in telegraphing to the Minister of Justice here, to enquire the effect which the present bill would exercise on the rights of the company. Those who have seen that Minister's reply to the company's enquiry have come to but one conclusion that the company was led from its tenor to believe that no interference with their equitable or vested rights was attempted. This will account in some degree for their not having sent more urgent protests by telegraph, for they were lulled into confidence by the assurance which had reached them from so high a quarter. Hon. members might however rest assured that so

soon as the company became acquainted with the true state of the affair, and what the actual provisions of this bill are, that they will exert every legitimate means in their power to render it nugatory, (hear, hear), because it clearly attempts to interfere with rights which are very valuable to them and to which he (Mr. R.) thought, after their great sacrifices in first embarking in so grand and hazardous an enterprise and after their undaunted perseverance in bringing it to a successful issue, they had an unquestionable claim. He would therefore vote for the saving clause of the Hon. Mr. Kaulbach. (Hear, hear).

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH in reply said that it was sought by the bill to exclude the present company from the rights which they were now in the enjoyment of unless they gave up the rights which they had in Newfoundland. He could not see that there was any justice in this attempt to deprive them of their rights to carry this line over Nova Scotia, though they had no exclusive right. Now what was attempted to be done was to take away those rights unless they gave up their rights in Newfoundland, and that appeared to him to be trying to take an unfair advantage of the company. When they first entered upon the work it was well known to be, and was recognised as a great enterprise; and he looked upon it now as a very hard thing that they should not enjoy the fruits of their labour. If the monopoly was broken up, no doubt another company would be formed. But with regard to the existing company if they had no legal rights there was no harm done, but all he wanted was that the company should have protection for the legal rights which they enjoyed. He thought it was not fair that the rights which they could claim in a Court of Justice should be taken away by special enactment. The company asked for no legislation at all, but only that they should be allowed to retain whatever rights they have, and which they could establish in a Court of Justice.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT said that in his own Province, the Electric Telegraph Company connected themselves with the Western Company and they doubled the rates. The policy of the present day was to have cheap postage and cheap telegraphy, and he did not think the majority of the House was in favor of keeping up monopolies. They were not conducive to the prosperity of the country, and what were called rights he looked upon as wrongs. They knew that in the mother country the Government had taken charge of the