

great results were following the agreement which had been made. But if newspaper reports be true, the government are about as far from accomplishing the object which they desired to force upon the country during the last session as they were at that period. It is evident to me, and must be to every hon. gentleman in this House, from the position in which they find themselves and the position in which that road is at the present moment, that the Senate performed one of its wisest acts when it rejected the proposition which was laid before it during last session. I also entertained the hope that we should have had some reference to that for which we have been all looking with a great deal of anxiety, the establishment of a fast line of steamers between Canada and Great Britain. A short time ago the press was filled with the boastings of the premier, and others, over the fact that they had entered into an agreement with wealthy gentlemen in England—that the money had been deposited and that the ships would soon be upon the ocean, and that we should be reaping the benefits which we believe would flow from the establishment of a line like that. However, there is no reference to that, and if whisperings be true, there does not appear to be the slightest probability of any success with the present contractors, and the country will look with regret and suspicion upon the action of the government in not carrying out the arrangements which had been made by the late government prior to their vacation of office. Then, again, there is that very important question of cable communication between this continent and the Australasian colonies. I have always looked upon that scheme and that proposition as one of absolute necessity, in order to accomplish that which all British statesmen at the present moment are desirous of accomplishing, and that is, the unity of the Empire to the fullest possible extent. Until that communication has been established, so that it will be exclusively British, instead of having to pass through two or three foreign countries, just so long will we be deprived of the advantages of that trade which is rapidly growing between the islands of the Pacific and the Dominion of Canada. Perhaps, however, when my hon. friend rises to address the House, he will be able to give us some satisfactory information upon these points. It will be accepted, I know,

with gratitude, by those who have taken an interest in this great enterprise. There has been a conference in England during the past year between the representatives of the Australasian colonies and Canada. The Hon. Mr. Jones and Sir Donald Smith acted on behalf of Canada, with Mr., now Sir Sanford Fleming assisting them at that conference. Why these papers have not been laid upon the Table, and why we have received no information on the subject is a matter which is incomprehensible to me; and I hope that before long we shall have the information which is absolutely necessary in order to keep us informed of what is really being done on these important questions. I know it is the custom to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address. I do not know that it is necessary that I should particularly extend that courtesy to an old member of the Commons and also of the Senate, a gentleman who had already spoken in this House. Still I must compliment him on the very lucid speech which he gave to the House in endeavouring to sustain the policy of the government on one or two of the great questions which are referred to in the Speech. I am sorry the hon. gentleman, the seconder of the address (Mr. Dandurand), is not present. We must all welcome that hon. gentleman to a seat in this House. His readiness of speech, in fact, his eloquence, was enough to captivate us, more particularly those who understand the language. My limited knowledge of French was not such as to enable me to form such a correct opinion of his remarks as will his own countrymen and those who do understand the language. However, I understand sufficient to find that he, like many others who have entered this Chamber, materially change their opinions and views upon the question of the existence of a second chamber. We have observed during the past few years that this chamber has been threatened with annihilation or at least reformation, by politicians and by newspapers. We had the late Minister of Justice, when he condescended to accept a seat in the cabinet, telling his chief the present premier, that he would accept it with the understanding and condition that he was to reform the Senate. You will all remember the eulogy which he passed upon the composition of this House and the necessity for its existence. Since that, however, the