

to establish an Atlantic cable. The business now offering is more than the existing Atlantic cable companies can do; there is room for competition, and I believe that the mere announcement that the Government of Canada would adopt the principle of government ownership in cables, would result in a reduction from the present commercial rate of 25 cents a word to 5 cents a word, and the business community of the world would be enormously benefitted. You may talk of the steel trust and other great monopolies, but there is no such powerful monopoly in the world today as the Eastern Telegraph Company in England. They largely control the cables all over the world; they are probably the most influential corporation in England, and they have had more influence at government headquarters in England for the last fifty years, and especially with the late government, than any other corporation. Do what you might it has been impossible to get the Eastern Telegraph company to reduce its exorbitant rates or to improve its service.

Negotiations in Progress

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, postmaster-general, said he was not averse in many respects to public ownership. In the older countries, such as England, France and Germany, and also in Japan, the telephones, telegraphs and cables were under the jurisdiction of the post office department, but in this country we had not yet reached that stage, although there was a strong movement in some parts of the country in favor of public ownership of these utilities. An important step had been made, however, in the establishment of the railway commission, before which any person could bring the telegraph, telephone and cable companies if he considered their rates excessive. With regard to cable rates Mr. Lemieux said he had discussed this matter several times with the British postmaster-general, and it had been practically agreed upon that unless the cable rates between Canada and Great Britain were very materially reduced a state-owned cable would be laid. He expected that in a very short time the announcement would be made of a reduction in the rate for ordinary cable messages from the present 25 cents a word to 12 cents, and he also hoped for a reduction in the rate on press messages from 19 cents to 6 cents a word. This reduction, however, was not considered sufficient, and the British postmaster-general had committed his government either to obtain a further reduction from the cable companies or to establish a state-owned line. It would cost only \$2,000,000 or a little more to lay a cable between Canada and Great Britain. The British government hesitated to establish the cable at the present moment, however, because of the probability of the perfection of the Marconi system, making it possible to establish a much less expensive means of communication by means of the wireless.

WASTING TIME AT OTTAWA

(By the Guide Special Correspondent)
Press Gallery, Ottawa, July 21.—The Parliament of Canada reassembled on Tuesday, and has now been sitting for four days. In that time the 221 members of the House of Commons, assisted by an almost equal number of officials, have done less business than a rural school board would do in ten minutes. There has been a wonderful flow of talk, but nothing has been done, and so far as advancing the business of the country is concerned the House might as well have been sitting. The program of the government, when the House opened on Monday, was the consideration of the reciprocity resolutions which must be passed before the bill which will give effect to the proposed tariff changes can be introduced. The members of the government side are ready to vote, but the opposition refuse to do so. In fact they seem to have a strong objection to even discussing reciprocity. They have the privilege when the motion is made that the House go into committee to consider the proposed reciprocity resolutions, of moving amendments or bringing other matters to the attention of the House. And this they are doing. On Tuesday W. S. Middleboro brought before the House the claim of the veterans of 1866 and 1870 and their descendants to a grant of land in recognition of their services in the defence of their country.

He was answered by Sir Wilfrid Laurier (himself one of the veterans concerned) who said in effect that if Sir John A. Macdonald, who was premier of Canada at the time the service was rendered, and for many years afterwards, did not consider it necessary to reward the veterans in the manner suggested, he did not think the present government, after a lapse of so many years, would be justified in doing so. A number of opposition members continued the debate, which occupied the whole afternoon, terminating with a division at 6 o'clock, in which, owing to the small attendance of members, the government had a majority of only 16. Then after dinner there were short discussions on the Porcupine fire disaster, and government

ownership of telegraph and cable lines, and eventually Mr. Arthurs, of Parry Sound, delivered the familiar anti-reciprocity speech everyone has heard so many times before. When Mr. Arthurs got through the opposition wanted to quit for the night, but Sir Wilfrid insisted that they should either go on talking or vote, and J. D. Taylor, of New Westminster, managed to keep going till midnight, when he made such a pitiful appeal to Sir Wilfrid that the prime minister moved the adjournment of the House. The same thing happened on Wednesday, except that the Western coal strike and the census were the subjects which the opposition chose to talk upon. On Thursday it was the Chinese immigration frauds at Vancouver,

and in speaking of this opposition members took the files of the British Columbia papers and read column after column of evidence given at the official enquiry.

Today (Friday) there has been more variety in the program which the opposition has substituted for that laid down by the government, the making of voters' lists in Northern Ontario, the parcels post, and express rates being discussed before Mr. Macdonnell, the member for South Toronto, resumed the reciprocity debate.

Distinct Obstruction

In each case some member of the government gave a brief explanation of the facts of the case, and the policy of

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Industry leans on the Politician

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