

a member. Neither the Directors of the Anglo-American Company nor their representatives in New York or Canada knew even that such a Bill existed until after it had been passed—without a word of discussion—by the second branch of the Legislature. The earliest intimation of this portentous measure was received by the Company in London on May 13, 1874, the very day on which the second reading was moved in the Senate. The Directors of the Company, with an imperfect knowledge of the extent to which their rights were invaded by the Bill, telegraphed to a private friend an urgent request that he would get a clause inserted for the protection of those rights; but although that gentleman did everything that could be done under the circumstances, and even retained counsel to appear on the Company's behalf before the Committee of the Senate to which the Bill was referred, it was impossible counsel could be properly instructed or that justice could be done to the facts of the case.

In the Senate, on May 13, 1874, Mr. Letellier de St. Just, in moving the second reading, made the following remarkable statement:—"There were," he said, "some monopolies acquired in laying down some of the lines that came to our shores, and the Bill was intended to protect us from any further monopolies for the future. . . . *It did not however interfere with existing rights.*" This hon. gentleman ought