

INTERNATIONAL SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.

ON Tuesday, the 23d day of December, 1856, Mr. SEWARD submitted a resolution to the Senate, and it was unanimously adopted, requesting the President of the United States to communicate to the Senate such information as he might have concerning the present condition and the prospects of a proposed plan for connecting by submarine wires the magnetic telegraph lines on this continent and Europe. The President in reply, on the 7th of January, 1857, transmitted to the Senate a report from the Secretary of State, which was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

On the 9th of January, Mr. SEWARD obtained leave to introduce a bill (S. No. 493) to expedite telegraphic communication for the use of the Government in foreign intercourse; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads; and on the 13th of January, it was reported back by Mr. COLLAMER without amendment. On the 21st of January, the Senate proceeded to its consideration.

The bill provides that the Secretary of State, in the discretion and under the direction of the President of the United States, may contract with any competent person, persons, or association, for the aid of the United States in laying down a submarine cable to connect existing telegraphs between the coast of Newfoundland and the coast of Ireland, and for the use of such submarine communication when established, by the Government of the United States, on such terms and conditions as shall seem to the President just and reasonable. It is, however, provided that the Government of Great Britain shall, before or at the same time, enter into a like contract for those purposes with the same person, persons, or association, and upon terms of exact equality with those stipulated by the United States; and that the tariff of prices for the use of such submarine communication by the public shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States and the Government of Great Britain, or its authorized agent. The United States is to enjoy the use of this submarine tele-

graph communication for a period of fifty years, on the same terms and conditions which shall be stipulated in favor of the Government of Great Britain, in a contract to be entered into.

At the request of Mr. COLLAMER, the documents transmitted to the Senate by the President of the United States, in response to Mr. SEWARD's resolution of the 23d of December, were read, as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 23d instant, requesting the President to communicate "to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, such information as he may have concerning the present condition and prospects of a proposed plan for connecting, by submarine wires, the magnetic telegraphic lines on this continent and Europe," I transmit the accompanying report from the Secretary of State.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, December 29, 1856.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, December 26, 1856.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 23d instant, requesting the President "to communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, such information as he may have concerning the present condition and prospects of a proposed plan for connecting, by submarine wires, the magnetic telegraph lines on this continent and Europe," has the honor to lay before the President a copy of a letter of the 15th instant, which he has also referred to this Department, addressed to him by the president and directors of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company.

W. L. MARCY.

To the President of the United States.

OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK, NEWFOUNDLAND,
AND LONDON TELEGRAPH COMPANY,
NEW YORK, December 15, 1856.

SIR: The undersigned, directors of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company, have the