

considered, was a very laudable one. He also believed there was a good deal of danger in delay. We had to deal with a very powerful body, which already exerted prodigious influence in Newfoundland, of which they were practically the government. They had, it was said excited their influence in the Island to prevent its incorporation with the Dominion. (Hear, hear). No doubt they had done this to secure the protection of their monopoly. It did not, then, lie with the opponents of the bill to impute any motives to those in favor of its being passed this Session. It might come quite as well from friends of the bill in favour of its passing at present to ask its adversaries what were their motives for delay. The season for laying cables was at hand. It was quite possible companies might be prepared to lay a cable if allowed to do so, and he therefore hoped the bill would be read a third time. (Hear, hear).

Hon. Mr. READ repeated that his object in speaking on this occasion was to protect all interests, a duty which belonged to this House. Mr. Field should not be persecuted for any political or other reason. He again urged a delay previous to action.

Hon. Mr. MILLER spoke at some length in reply to the objections to the bill. He held that his hon. friend from Toronto (Mr Macpherson) had very satisfactorily answered the objection as to the private parties interested not having had sufficient time to make their views known here. They had ample opportunity of asserting any rights possessed. He had been told by a member of the other House that some eleven days ago, he informed Mr. Field that a bill of this character was before Parliament. But these parties having control of the whole telegraph system of the continent might have presented their case to us through the wires if no other way was convenient. (Hear, hear.) If there were any rights to set forth, then why were they not presented? The fact of parties having received time enough for the purpose had disposed of any objection he had to the bill. (Hear, hear.) He thought it a necessary measure, and that this monopoly should not be allowed to treat this country as it had done for many years [Hear, hear] He went on to argue that the company had no exclusive rights in Nova Scotia, and that the vested rights claimed for them were nothing more nor less than the vested rights created by the Nova Scotia Act of 1851, creating the Nova Scotia Company. They had been transferred.

There could be no better tribunal for considering and passing judgment upon those rights than the legislature which created them. In 1867 an application was made by the British and American Telegraph Company, for an Act of incorporation. The company under whom those vested rights are claimed appeared before a Committee of the Parliament of Nova Scotia, and by counsel through their friends, and after an ample discussion of the whole question that body decided by placing an act on the statute book against the contestation of the Company, granting to the British America Telegraph Company the right to use the shores of Nova Scotia, and erect telegraph wires and posts upon its territory.

Hon Mr. BUTSFORD—An exclusive right.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—No exclusive rights, such as were usually denominated vested rights. This Legislature equally indicated their opinion with regard to this question. Last session of Parliament the House of Commons passed an act recognizing no such vested rights in Nova Scotia, but granting the Montreal Telegraph Company the same rights in Nova Scotia which they enjoyed any other place, and so marking their opinion on the subject as to make a special mention of Nova Scotia in the act. He contended, therefore, that there were no exclusive vested rights within that Province to be interfered with. He admitted frankly this Cable Company had vested rights in Newfoundland and thought that in legislating with regard to that Island which was outside the Dominion, they must act as if it were a foreign country. How was it rational that this Dominion should permit a foreign country or a small colony like Newfoundland to stand in the way of inter-Continental communication, so far as we could prevent it, between the old and new worlds? The Government of the Island now contemplate, it was said, buying up the line across the Province, and using it as a means of colonial revenue. (Hear, hear) It has been reported that some of its public men said they could gain \$400,000 a year by purchasing that line under their pre-emption rights. Could we tolerate for a moment such interference with telegraphic communication between this Continent, or Canada and Europe? The thing was too absurd. It was in the interest of the public not to allow this giant monopoly to be stronger or richer than at present. We had no evidence that the stock had not paid a handsome profit, or that the whole investment of the present