

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Then I understand that the responsibility of requiring any further extension than taking the road to the Strait of Canso will rest with the Local Government.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST—I do not go as far as that. I say it will rest with the people of your Province and their Government, inasmuch as the Government seem to be ready to grant a subsidy for its continuation towards the east. When the papers are before the House it will be more easy to discuss the question. However, the Government have no intention whatever to prevent this little section from being handed over for the purpose of assisting the extension.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—My own impression of the former discussion on this subject is, that in granting the line to New Glasgow a condition should be attached that the extension should be carried on to Louisburg.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I was opposed to that, for the simple reason I believed no contractors would be willing to accept it on that condition. However, I do not believe the Government were liable to censure for affording the opportunity to any contractors who would be willing to undertake the extension to Louisburg.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I believe that within the last two years a proposition was made by a company to extend the road to Louisburg, if they could get control of the section from Truro to New Glasgow. I think the offer was made, and an attempt was made to float the scheme in the English money market, but it failed.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY—I understand the reason of the failure was that the time was too short. With respect to the road from Truro to New Glasgow—fifty miles, the property of the Government—when it is handed over to a company to ensure the extension to the Strait of Canso, I hope in the arrangement for transfer the Government will see that the public interests are protected; that the use of the road shall be continued, and that it shall not be handed over to speculators before the extension to Canso is insured.

The motion was carried.

MARINE CABLES.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH moved "That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House copies of all papers and correspondence between the Government and the 'Direct Cable Company,'

the 'Anglo-American Company,' and all other Atlantic Cable Companies since the 1st October, 1873." It must be fresh in the minds of every honourable gentleman present the animated discussion we had last session on the Government Bill entitled an "Act to regulate the construction and maintenance of Marine Electric Telegraphs," landing on our shores. It seemed that the legislation of the Government was inspired in the interest of a company known as the "Direct Cable Company," which company, in the previous session of Parliament, sought for itself similar legislation, and circumstances justified an impression that some gentlemen now in the Government had some interest in stimulating the legislation of last spring. It was apparent that at every step in the progress of the Bill the Government not only consulted with, but was dictated to by, the said company. It is currently reported that a scheme has not only been outlined and promulgated, but circulars explaining have been issued, for the fusion into the Anglo-American Company of the Direct Cable Company. It is well remembered that the promoters of the latter company impressed the idea, not only on the public, but on some hon. gentlemen here, that they were animated with the desire to promote the public interest in cheap telegraphy, and by the aid of the Government Bill permanent cable competition would be secured. Now, it is just possible that the amalgamation of the two companies may not take place; but this much appears certain—they have clutched at monopoly rates, and united as to tariff charges; and whilst the Government seemingly chafed at the cause of full competition, disregarding rights and the credit of the country abroad, created a greater monopoly than previously existed. The Direct Cable Company showed by their prospectus that one shilling a word would yield a ten per cent dividend. Why do they now charge seventy-five cents? It will be remembered that many of us last session prophesied this result, and moved to limit the maximum rate to fifty cents a word, which we have reason to believe the Government would have agreed to but for the influence of the Direct Cable Company. It is to be hoped that it will not appear that our Government of so much professed purity have, through any influence, brought about the present gigantic monopoly. I do not know what correspondence the Government have on this matter, but I hope they can show that