

Mr. McLELAN. I think the Bill is clear as it is; but I have no objection to the amendment.

Amendment agreed to and Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

MARINE TELEGRAPH.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved the second reading of Bill (No. 127) to make further provision regarding the incorporation of a company to establish a marine telegraph between the Pacific coast of Canada and Asia, and for repealing the provisions of any Act inconsistent therewith. He said: When I introduced this Bill the other day, I had the intention of asking the House to allow this Bill to go to a second reading, and to adopt, not only the first, but also the second clause, giving exclusive right for twenty years. The fact is, we incorporated this Company last Session to establish a cable across the Atlantic, and also one across the Pacific Ocean. That Company, up to very lately, seemed to have stirred very little about organizing and raising their capital. From time to time the rumor came that the Company was succeeding in obtaining their capital, and so on. I do not want to say anything in disparagement of the Company, because if they can raise the capital so much the better. As the Session proceeds, I intend asking the House to adopt this first clause, giving an extension of time to this Company of twelve months, and I will drop a few of the other clauses.

Mr. BLAKE. Of course that removes one of the great objections of this Bill. But the hon. Minister has not given us any information as to how it happens that the Company, which is under this peculiar favor, has not made any progress either. It has not even been incorporated, and the hon. Minister has had no opportunity yet of exercising that power which, under very exceptional circumstances, we gave to the Governor in Council to incorporate the Company, which was promoted by Mr. Fleming. Now, is it the case that that Company will not proceed unless its promoters obtain exclusive rights? Is it the case that they abstain from procuring their incorporation because they have not exclusive rights, and that they are waiting to see whether this other Company will succeed, and if it does succeed they will not go on, and if it does not succeed, they will come here next Session and ask for an exclusive right because the others have failed?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. No.

Mr. BLAKE. That would rather seem to be the case from the hon. Minister's statement. It would seem as if the promoters of the Act are not themselves advancing until they obtain an obnoxious privilege, which the hon. Minister was about to propose to give them this Session. I think we are entitled to know, since a public Bill has been proposed in the interest of certain promoters, what progress they have made, what expectation they have of proceeding during the recess to do those things which have not yet been done. We are the more entitled to know it, because when this Bill was introduced we enquired whether there had been any correspondence at all, and the answer was there had been none, and in consequence there is nothing to show that the present extension of time will be availed of.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The reason why the incorporators have not proceeded are those I gave last Session when I proposed the Bill, namely, that there is no chance for two companies to succeed in that way. If one Company does not succeed in raising their capital the other Company will try and see if they can do better. The fact is, that when Mr. Fleming asked for his charter last year we had no idea this other Company would ask for rights in the Pacific Ocean. The rights that had been given in their Bill was only for the purpose of laying a cable across the Atlantic, therefore any other company could ask

for privileges on the Pacific Ocean, and Mr. Fleming asked that he might be incorporated for that purpose. From the energy Mr. Fleming has displayed already, I have no doubt he will prosecute his undertaking. When the other Company was incorporated and promised us such great results, of course Mr. Fleming was justified in hesitating about raising another Company while the first Company was supposed to be able to raise the capital and go on at once. He told me himself that had the other Company failed, he did not think that would prevent him from going on. At that time he had obtained certain powers for the landing of a cable in Japan, and other attempts were made by him to obtain privileges elsewhere, but this other Company being in the field and being known as desirous to raise capital, Mr. Fleming did not think that he should attempt the same thing, and deceive those that were trusting in him by trying to raise capital that might not be used afterwards. Under these circumstances, he was not able to go on, and we ask Parliament to give him another twelve months so that during that time things may shape themselves better, and if the other Company does not raise their capital he will try his hand at it, which, however, does not mean that he will ask any more privileges. From the attention that has been called to these schemes, he might then be able to raise capital and work the Asiatic cable without asking any privilege of Parliament; but if he requires the privilege, of course Parliament may grant it or refuse it. At all events, I do not think we should refuse him the twelve months extension.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. The hon. gentleman says that the fact of this Company being incorporated has had the effect of deterring Mr. Fleming from going on. May it not also be the case that the Act passed last year in favor of Mr. Fleming was the reason this Company did not go on?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Mr. Fleming was the first in the field, and when the other Company came to Parliament they changed their scheme, and asked not only for privileges on the Atlantic, but for the privilege of laying an Asiatic cable. What they asked for, in the first place, was an Atlantic cable and nothing else.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. I do not so understand it. It was contemplated to extend the lines beyond the Atlantic when the petition was presented, and it was so stated by the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Currier). Why did not Mr. Fleming make the application for a charter in the ordinary way? Why did the Government not take charge of the Bill and save him the fee of \$200. It seems to me that, both last year and this year, Mr. Fleming should have stood in the same position as any private person applying for an Act of incorporation. No reason has been given why the Government should have taken such an interest in Mr. Fleming's project. I understand that this is a *bona fide* Company, and they are taking measures to have the work prosecuted. I am not opposed to the extension of time for twelve months, but Mr. Fleming should, like an ordinary individual, have proceeded in the usual way to obtain a charter of incorporation.

Bill read the second time, considered in Committee, reported, and read the third time and passed.

It being Six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

SUPPLY.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

196. Post Office..... \$2,018,900

Mr. MACKENZIE. I desire some information in regard to the increase in Ontario.

Mr. O'CONNOR. It is due to increased mileage and the extra trains. Some of the extra mileage is on the Port Dover and Lake Huron Railway. Then on the Great Western