

glad to see that the Government have proved themselves, in regard to this service, as much abreast of the times and as far-seeing as they were in connection with the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and although the trade with Australia, which may in the first instance be accommodated by the Canadian Pacific Railway may not be large, I believe in time that a trade will be developed between this country and that great dependency of the Crown which will fully justify the Government in granting the subsidy. So also with the subsidy to the line between British Columbia and China and Japan. I believe we are destined, in the nearer future than many of us suppose, to open a trade with the countries of the East which have enriched, in ancient and modern times, some of the great Maritime powers of Europe. I am glad, therefore, that this service has been undertaken, and I am sorry to find the hon. member from Halifax (Mr. Power) expressing a desire to substitute a class of steamers which would not carry out the purpose or realize the objects with the Government have in view in connection with this service. I am sorry to see that position assumed by that hon. gentleman, above all others, because the city from which he comes, the interests of which he is always, I believe, devotedly attached to, will be largely benefited by this subsidy to the Atlantic Mail service. I shall not follow the hon. gentleman in his arguments on the various clauses of the Bill. The House does not require any answer to what he says, and the only point which merited a reply was fully answered by the plain, common sense statement of the hon. gentleman from Charlottetown. The idea that the service will not be a fast one because the vessels must call at a French port is so absurd that it hardly requires an answer. The same argument was used elsewhere, and received no attention from the audience to which it was addressed. I rejoice that the Government have on this question, as on the Canadian Pacific Railway, had the wisdom and the foresight to adopt the policy which is a true one, I believe, in this country, and which in time will confer benefits that will justify the large expenditures we have made, not only in

the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but also on these mail services.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—After the speech to which we have just listened I do not think it is necessary for me to trouble the House at any length in reply to the remarks of the hon. member from Halifax.

HON. MR. POWER—Hear, hear.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—My hon friend seems pleased at the prospect; if I should follow all the remarks which he made, and show the pessimistic way he has spoken of this route and the advantages to be derived from it, I think he would not feel very proud of his utterances. The whole design of this Bill is that Canada shall be the great highway for the trade between the eastern part of the continent of Asia and the western part, at least, of the continent of Europe. That is the design and object of this Bill; and if that is accomplished, as I believe it will be, we can hardly conceive the vast advantage that it must be to Canada. The benefits cannot be reckoned in pounds, shillings and pence merely. The object of this Bill is not to subsidize freight steamers to compete with lines of that kind that are already in existence. It is for a different object altogether. I believe it will exemplify that this is the shortest, the best and the most expeditious route between Europe and Asia. If that can be done by putting on steamers equal to those which ply between New York and England we should do it, and not make us, as the hon. gentleman seems yet to desire to make us, dependent on United States ports. My hon. friend says that this is not desired by the merchants of this country. I think the merchants and all public men interested in the welfare of Canada have spoken in terms not to be misunderstood. This question has been before the country, and has been agitated for some time, and the country has endorsed the policy of the Government in subsidizing a line of steamers for this service. Nothing can be more important to us than to have such a line. If it is established it will tend still more to make the Dominion the greatest and grandest part of the Empire. Already we have,

HON. MR. MILLER.