

new line which would undoubtedly destroy their monopoly, and reduce the exceedingly high charges which they have so long enjoyed.

Mr. Pender objects to the proposal to connect Canada with Australasia, telegraphically, on several grounds. He states that the line "would necessarily consist of long stretches, across enormous and practically unsurveyed depths, terminating in coral reefs," and he leaves the impression that the project is impracticable, or next to impracticable.

In Canada, and I doubt not in the other Colonies, we have learned to disregard objections of this kind. At one time it was declared by a very high authority, an Imperial Scientific Officer specially commissioned to examine and report, that it was quite impracticable to establish a railway through the Territories now forming the Dominion. This officer was not Chairman of any Company whose profits were at stake; he was an able, earnest man with a deservedly high reputation. He was assisted by a staff of scientists equally able and reliable, who were engaged with him in exploring the country for a period of four years. I shall give a paragraph from his report, addressed in 1862 to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, then Colonial Secretary.

"The knowledge of the country on the whole would never lead me to advocate a line of communication from Canada across the Continent to the Pacific, exclusively on British territory. The time has now for ever gone by for effecting such an object, and the unfortunate choice of an astronomical boundary line has completely isolated the central American possessions of Great Britain from Canada in the east, and also debarred them from any eligible access from the Pacific coast on the west."