

The CHAIRMAN observed that the lines in Newfoundland were dependent upon changes of weather. They used, a few months ago, to break down and remain stopped for several days, but of late, when a break down occurred, the damage had been repaired in a hour or two. He did not think it would assist the public if they were to advertise "lines down" and "lines up" three or four times a day. He believed that with the exception of one very serious break down in consequence of a gale and a heavy fall of snow there had been no interruption for some time which had extended over two or three hours. They would always be subject to these interruptions till they got the cable from Placentia Bay to Boston, when he hoped they would be able to give satisfaction to the public, and to secure themselves from the danger of competition, to which all successful undertakings were exposed. The tariff was a question of anxious consideration. It was no use seeking a large business till the lines beyond them were in a condition to do it. They had already reduced the tariff from 20s. to 10s. a word, and he believed they would very shortly go to 5s.; and he would not venture to say that that would be the permanent rate.

Replying to further questions.

The CHAIRMAN stated there was nothing to preclude another company from laying a line direct from Ireland to Boston, or any other point in the United States beyond a certain boundary, within which the Newfoundland Company, who were partners with the Atlantic Telegraph Company, had a monopoly. But their true policy and safety would be not to depend upon a monopoly but upon doing the work so well and cheaply that there should be no room for others. The