

the address and myself, may not live to see all this, but we can lay the foundation at least for that which we hope to see accomplished. It has been my good fortune to live under no less than four sovereigns. I do not expect to live long enough to see another sovereign; but there are some in this House, who have lived long enough to be under George III., George IV., William IV., Victoria and Edward. I only hope that the venerable member of the House (Mr. Wark) whom I hope soon to see present may live to take his seat when he is beyond the century in age.

The Duke of Cornwall, or in fact any member of the Royal Family, will be welcome to Canada. I hope he may come. As the heir-apparent to the Throne now, the time may come—in all probability it will come—when he will have to assume the position his father now occupies, and nothing will so tend to expand his ideas as to the importance and magnitude of the empire over which he may be called to rule, as travelling through the different portions of it. Going round the world, seeing Australia, coming home by way of Canada through the great North-west will give him an idea of this Dominion and of Australia that cannot be gained by reading or study. I speak from experience, when I say that no man can have any conception of what the empire is until he has visited a large portion of it, and nothing will tend to expand the mind of the heir-apparent in that direction so much as going through the Australian colonies and British North America.

The Pacific cable is referred to in the speech. I confess that a few days ago, when I saw a telegram purporting to have been sent by the Colonial Secretary to the Australian statesmen and governments, that delay was occurring owing to the further consideration of the subject by the Canadian government.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That is entirely wrong. There was no authority for that.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I am very glad to hear it, because I look upon that cable as a very important work in the interests of the empire.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I look upon that as a corollary, if I may so term it, of confederation. A cable round the world through British territory is absolutely necessary for the protection of Imperial interests at the present day, and every day makes it more important. There is one thing, however, to be considered in connection with this great scheme, and that is that it has been delayed too long.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The delay is causing a further expenditure in its construction, reaching, if I mistake not, into millions over and above that for which it was offered to be built when the late government, after the colonial conference, called for tenders. I do not hold the present government altogether blameless in connection with that delay. I do not think they pushed it with the vigour they should have shown at the time, but having taken the matter up and adopted the policy of the late government in connection with this cable, they have done, I believe, all they possibly could, more particularly when we consider the obstruction that was thrown in the way by the Eastern Extension Company, through the influence which they had in England. I see that a Bill is to be introduced by the Postmaster General changing the law which is now upon the statute-book, and which, I presume, has for its object the increased cost, which we will have to pay owing to the extra expense that will be incurred in laying this cable. The hon. gentleman nods his head, I suppose in acquiescence. I regret that the contract is in the hands of the parties to whom it has been awarded. I think it would have been much better, in the interests of the cable, and of the empire, if the laying of that cable had been in the hands of independent contractors of whom there are either three or four quite capable of doing it, in England, than in the hands of the construction company which is a part and parcel of the Eastern Extension Company, who have obstructed and prevented the completing of that line for the last fifteen or twenty years. However, if they have signed the contract, I take it for granted that the commission which will be appointed by the Imperial, the Canadian, and the Australian