

stick that the other day he forced the cable monopoly to reduce, but in a very small degree, the rates between Canada and the mother country. Failing a further reduction, I say that we must have a state-owned cable. Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude by moving the following motion.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton). Might I ask the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) to be good enough to listen to the position which I was placed in. While I referred several times to the motion I intended to move, yet I sat down without moving it. If the hon. gentleman would be good enough—it is the same—

Mr. LEMIEUX. Before my hon. friend proceeds, I wish to say that I listened with pleasure to him the other day for a whole afternoon, and he gave certainly most interesting information to the House, not only on cable rates, but on telegraphic, telephone and postal rates. I think, however, that he neglected the cables in favour of the other subjects he had discussed. I had taken it upon myself to proffer these few remarks, and at the same time, to give notice to the Postmaster General of the motion which I intended to move. Now my hon. friend from Lambton (Mr. Armstrong) knew that this evening; he preceded me, he made his remarks, I listened to his remarks, and I hope now that he will listen to my motion and vote for it. I move:

That in the opinion of this House steps should be taken by the Postmaster General with a view to obtaining a further reduction in cable rates between Canada and Great Britain.

Mr. MACLEAN (South York). I have listened to both speeches to-night with a great deal of interest. I sympathise with both speakers, but I go further. I am in favour of immediate action by the Canadian government in the direction of state ownership and state operation of telegraphs, telephones and cables in this country. There is an old Greek proverb that says: 'If you wish to play upon the harp, you must play upon the harp.' If you wish to get a reduction in tolls of this kind, the only way to get them, is to get them, and the way to get them is by state operation and competition with the various companies. They are monopolists, they are in the position of dividing great profits among themselves; and as long as you say, We ask you, as a favour, to come down in your rates, they will never do it. But if you go after them with competition by the state, you will effect your purpose. As I have stated in this House before, the monopoly that control cables has its centre in London. It was the most powerful monopoly that was known in London, it was able to reach by its enormous influence, more members of parlia-

ment and more members of the cabinet in England than any other monopoly. To-day it is that powerful in England that it is in a position to check, to control the action even of the Postmaster General of Canada. But something worse than that has happened. The control of the Atlantic cables has passed to the Americans, to the very same Americans who control the telegraph companies in the United States, who control the Bell Telephone company in the United States, and the Bell Telephone in Canada, and who have to-day the Canadian Pacific railway and the Great Northwestern Telegraph companies also in their pool and in alliance with them.

The cable, telegraph and telephone business in Canada and the United States is all under this American control which is in alliance with financial interests in London, it is a great interest with connections in every country and so has been able to influence even the Postmaster General and have him hold his hand. So there is no hope of the reductions we would like to see unless we resort to state competition. As the late Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) has said, it would cost only \$2,200,000 to equip a first class cable between Canada and Great Britain. A sinking fund would provide that amount, we would secure immediate reduction in tolls and public control in British hands. It is absurd and shows a lack of national and imperial policy to allow capitalists in another country to control the cable and telegraph system of the British Empire. The Germans would not stand such a thing for a day. The time has come in Canada and in the motherland and in other sister states of the empire, for government control, ownership and operation, of all cables, telegraphs and telephones. If we inaugurated a state-owned cable we would have to control the land lines in the interest of that cable. In England they control the cable companies in a way, they have the whip hand there over the cable companies, but it is not effective. If we had a state-owned cable to England and a state-owned telegraph system in connection with a telephone service, every country in the empire and the motherland itself would be able to give these services for one-third the present rates. This would give the press of the empire a first-class news service. I agree with the quotation that has been read from the Duke of Argyll that the greatest boon would be free telegraph and cable service in the interests of the empire. The only way to create a world-wide public opinion is to have the freest interchange by the press of the expressions of public opinion in the different countries. That to-day is impossible. The cable despatches to-day are condensed, they should be much longer and fuller and the only possible means of