

17. The necessary arrangements have been made by the New York and Newfoundland Telegraph Company with the telegraph companies in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, and the United States, to ensure the transmission of messages through to New York. I am informed also that the New York and Newfoundland Company have secured a preference on those lines for their messages over those of a merely local character.

18. In conclusion I have the honour to report that the bill for amending the Telegraph Incorporation Act, to which I have referred in my previous Despatches on this subject, has passed through the Legislative Council, and awaits my assent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1, in No. 9.

Enclosure 1, in No. 9.

SPEECH of ROBERT PROWSE, Esquire, M.H.A., upon the subject of Direct Steam Communication.

I HAVE great pleasure in confirming the statement of the Honourable Colonial Secretary. This colony must be greatly benefitted by the enterprising energy and active zeal of the projectors of the main telegraph line across this island, which will bring us within speaking distance as it were with the western world, and induce the line of ocean steamers to make St. John's a port of call.

We are as a colony chargeable with gross negligence to our own interests in not having placed before the Home Government the facility with which ships of the largest tonnage may approach our shores and enter this port; the coast is one of the boldest and finest in the world for shipping to make; the activity of our neighbouring colonists and others interested in misrepresenting our island and keeping up the old blind vulgar prejudice against it as a land of "fish and fog," has only to be met by facts and faithful representations that the inshore of this island is far more free from fogs than the coast of Nova Scotia, and certainly with less shoals or rocks to interfere with ships. The arrival and sailing of ships from St. John's every month of the year plainly indicates the free ingress and egress to our harbour.

I can speak, Sir, from the experience of a period of upwards of five and forty years' residence in this colony, and assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that with the exception of four or five occasions, at no season of the year during my time in Newfoundland have ships been unable to approach the island coming in in the latitude of Cape Race, the stream from the Gulf of St. Lawrence here meeting the current from the north-east, which prevails so strongly on this coast early in the spring, the ice trails off, and an opening will always be found to come in with the shore from the south-east; and rarely indeed is it that ships have had to go into the harbour of Trepassy to wait a few hours of off-shore wind to enable them to come along the coast, and get into this port.

I trust, Sir, that such a representation will be made by this house, founded on facts established beyond all question, that the people of England and America will get to know better how we are situated and "come and see."

I would strongly recommend the Government to hold out every inducement for the ocean steamers to call here; let them be exempt from light dues, and the pilotage be reduced to half the usual fare, and a public wharf be built here in a central situation to which they may come free of charge, in short, every possible benefit we can afford to to give them should be freely offered.

Encl. 2, in No. 9.

Enclosure 2, in No. 9.

COPY of AGREEMENT between Local Government and New York and Newfoundland Telegraph Company.

THIS agreement, made at St. John's, in the island of Newfoundland, this 28th day of April 1856, between the Hon. John Kent, Colonial Secretary of the said Island, for and on behalf of Her Majesty's Government of the one part, and Ambrose Shea, local manager on behalf of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company of the other part.

Witnesseth that Her Majesty's government of this island doth agree to let to the said New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company the south-east angle of the market house of this town, from the door on Church Hill to the Water Street front, being about fifty-three feet six inches by eighteen feet six inches, for a telegraph office on the conditions following:

The Governor to have the right to send not exceeding fifty messages per annum of twenty words each, or one hundred messages of ten words each, as far as the lines of the Company