

Mr. DeCOSMOS. Every hon. gentleman will agree with the hon. Minister of Public Works that it is desirable to have a cable connecting the shores of British Columbia with those of Asia. But I question whether there are a very large number who are willing to grant exclusive right for twenty years for this cable communication. I am not prepared to cast my vote in favor of a monopoly for twenty years. I have a special reason for making that statement beyond the question now before the House. I introduced the first Telegraph Bill ever introduced to enable a company to stretch their wires on Vancouver Island. In 1864 we offered a company the twenty years exclusive privilege of operating the line. When the Bill went to England, I believe it was referred to the Board of Trade, or some other council there, and a despatch came out asking the Provincial Government to repeal the exclusive privilege. In 1865 we had to pass a Bill of which this is a portion of the preamble: "Whereas it is contrary to the policy of Her Majesty's Government to grant exclusive telegraphic privileges." I take it that so long as we are under Imperial rule, so long will the Imperial Government insist that no monopoly shall be granted. I am not aware that any monopoly has been granted with respect to telegraphic communication in connection with Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE. No.

Mr. DeCOSMOS. I look upon this Bill as simply a money-making Bill, like all Bills of a similar nature. It is admitted by the Minister of Public Works, that unless Mr. Fleming can get the exclusive privilege for twenty years he does not want to have anything to do with forming a company. To bring it right down to the point, it is simply this: Mr. Fleming or his associates believe they can make money by getting an exclusive right which they can sell in the markets of the United States, Great Britain or Europe, and they will be very handsomely paid indeed. I trust this House will follow the policy laid down by Her Majesty's Government in 1864-65, and deny to any company the exclusive right for twenty years, or longer or shorter period, of operating telegraph lines in any portion of this Dominion. The United States Constitution recognizes no such thing as a monopoly, nor does the constitution of any State recognize it. I can say, with respect to the line contemplated, what great advantage can Mr. Fleming and his associates gain, even in the money market, except to make a sale of it at once. 250 miles south of Quatsino Sound, we have Cape Flattery in Washington Territory, and from there a cable can be stretched across the ocean on very nearly the same line as the proposed cable. I understand it has been proposed in San Francisco to stretch a line across the ocean to Japan and China. At present they have to go round by the way of Europe and across Asia, to reach those countries. In view, therefore, of the one point, that of monopoly, I sincerely trust this House will not recognize any such principle.

Mr. LANGEVIN. After hearing the remarks of the hon. gentleman, it is only due to the House that I should ask the postponement of those resolutions. Perhaps the hon. member for Ottawa will be in a position to communicate to my department this statement that he was kind enough to make to the House, and put the Government in a position to deal with the matter on Thursday.

Mr. CURRIER. I have no objection to what has been suggested by the hon. Minister of Public Works. I rise to correct a little mistake I made in naming \$800,000. The amount is \$750,000—£150,000 sterling—which the company are prepared to put up before the House adjourns.

Mr. McCARTHY moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read a second time, considered in Committee, and reported:—

Bill (No. 58) to provide for the salaries of an additional Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench and an additional Judge of the Superior Court in the Province of Quebec.—(Mr. McDonald, Pictou.)

Bill (No. 64) to continue in force for a limited time the Act passed in the forty-third year of Her Majesty's Reign, entitled: "An Act respecting the administration of Criminal Justice in the Territory in dispute between the Governments of the Province of Ontario and of the Dominion of Canada."—(Mr. McDonald, Pictou.)

UNIFORM CURRENCY.

The following Bill was read the second time, considered in Committee, read the third time, and passed:—

Bill (No. 66) to extend the Act establishing one uniform currency for the Dominion of Canada to the Provinces of British Columbia and Prince Edward Island.—(Sir Leonard Tilley.)

SUPPLY.

House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

26. Dominion Police \$13,500 00

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. What is the number of the force at present?

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou). Twenty, I think. It is either twenty or twenty-one—I am not sure which—but at all events the number is the same as last year, and one more than two years ago.

28. St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary \$82,740 69

Mr. BLAKE. Is the number of inmates the same as last year?

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou). Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. Will you state why the number of guards has been increased?

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou). The Inspector called my attention to the fact that four more guards were necessary, and I directed him to make a special report on the subject, which he did, strongly urging the addition. I shall be able to hand the hon. gentleman the report this evening.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. I notice that Kingston, which has nearly double the number of inmates of that of St. Vincent de Paul, has only 77 officers, while the latter has 60. Of course there may be special reasons for this large staff but the disproportion is considerable.

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou). The observation is quite just, but I have found it quite impossible to lessen the number.

Mr. BLAKE. What is the state of the penitentiary structure? Is the work of construction complete?

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou). The work of construction is completed and the new wing is occupied, though a further extension is required, because, as the hon. gentleman probably knows, almost every year we have to send some prisoners from that penitentiary to Kingston. It is contemplated to add another wing, but at present works of construction are not in progress.

In answer to Mr. BLAKE,

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou). I am told the reduction is in consequence of work that had been heretofore carried on under the direction of the warden, and is now transferred to the Public Works Department. Consequently, the warden has been able to make a reduction in his estimate for tools and