

Hon. Mr. READ said this bill was quietly allowed to receive its second reading on the assurance that private rights were not to be interfered with by it. Now they were told they would be interfered with. Moreover some hon. members had left for home on the understanding that no change would be made in the bill as first agreed to in Committee. Time had been allowed all parties for the purpose of information and a proper consideration of its provisions. He believed the House should legislate with extreme caution on matters like the present. The vested rights of English and other capitalists should not be carelessly dealt with. The interested parties had been given only two days to appear and state their case. In view of their enterprise and large investments in this line, it would be but right to leave this bill over till next session, so as to give them time to come to Parliament and urge their claims. A catch-vote should not be taken on this bill without a proper understanding of its merits. (Hear.)

Hon. Mr. WILMOT said the vested rights, so far as he understood, consisted of a monopoly on the Island of Newfoundland, in consequence of which all the telegraphic messages passing between Europe and America went through the Company's hands. The very same Company tried to get from New Brunswick years ago, the exclusive right of carrying their wires through the Province. He was then a member of the Government, and with his colleagues resolved no such monopoly should be permitted. (Hear, hear.) The act of Nova Scotia granting a monopoly was disallowed. Amongst the results of this system, was the charge of 50 cents in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia for messages that cost but 25 cents in Quebec and Ontario. Merely sending a message across the Gut of Canso, a mile, cost 50 cents. He was most decidedly opposed to these monopolies, and hoped the bill recommended by a large majority of the Committee, would pass.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH said that although he was not favorable to monopolies, he would not interfere with vested rights, summarily. He would move in amendment, that the report of the Committee be not now received, but that the bill be re-committed to make the 16th section read as follows:—

"In case any Company heretofore incorporated has legally acquired any privileges of landing wire or cable for a marine telegraph upon the coast of the Dominion of Canada, or of any other country, such Company shall be entitled to exercise and

enjoy any such existing privilege unimpaired by this act, but no Company heretofore incorporated by any such special act, shall acquire any additional exclusive privileges of landing wires or cables as aforesaid."

Hon. Mr. REESOR thought the 16th clause was reasonable in itself, and should not be altered as proposed. However, the bill had been carefully considered in Committee, and was not susceptible of improvement in the House. The opponents of the bill had not shown any vested rights or vested wrongs that it proposed to take away. They had not pointed out exclusive rights in the Dominion belonging to this Cable Company, because none such existed. If they had, no measure passed here could affect their rights in Newfoundland. He believed we ought to oppose monopolies, which had done so much mischief in the States. The 16th clause simply protected us against any further privileges to this Company.

Hon. Mr. BUTSFORD said he could not assent to this bill. [Hear, hear.] If the Telegraph Company had no right in Nova Scotia, where was the use of inserting a proviso respecting "any existing rights the company might have in carrying messages over Nova Scotia?" [Hear, hear.] If they had no rights this proviso injured the bill; if they had rights, they ought to be protected in them, at all events till an opportunity was given them to meet any objections thereto. He fully believed the company were in possession of certain privileges, which enabled them to conduct telegraphic communication over Nova Scotia, and ought not to be deprived of them in the way proposed. It was not that the bill stripped them of rights, but required them to concede privileges. It was not in their power to concede to any company that might be formed under our legislation or that of Newfoundland. Unless the company did this, however, the legislation required has to be denied, and if they had any right to send messages over Nova Scotia, the Bill destroyed it. He should vote against this species of legislation.

Hon Mr. PENNY was sorry to have to vote against this bill, which he would do because it struck at vested rights. He argued it was very much of the nature of a private bill, but one of which no notice had been given. Todd laid down the distinction and the rule. In this case no one pretended to be a suitor, and yet there must be somebody that wished to upset this monopoly, for monopoly it was. [Hear, hear.] What he coun-