

wants of the Dominion are amply served by existing organisations, and that it was not in the public interest that another company should be chartered. My hon. friend has thought fit to make some remarks about one of the companies in existence, which he says has already been sold out to Jay Gould. His statement is entirely incorrect. Having some professional connection with the company I am in a position to state that the company has not been sold out to Jay Gould. Jay Gould's connection with the company is simply his subscription for some \$230,000 worth of stock, which is less than one-quarter of the whole stock. There were \$230,000 odd of stock not subscribed for. Mr. Gould subscribed for that stock at a certain price, paid in the money and is now, unless he has disposed of it, a stockholder for less than one-quarter of the capital stock of the company. He paid that money in cash and it was used, so far as necessary, in paying off its floating debt and in extending its lines throughout the country. Since that transaction the company has negotiated a lease with one of those companies which my hon. friend describes as "one of the gigantic companies in the United States now carrying on a telegraphic war there." The Dominion Company, under that lease, works in connection with the American Union Company, in just the same way and with just the same arrangement that the Montreal Company works in connection with the Western Union Company. No one, I think, can say that the public of Canada have not ample telegraphic facilities provided for them. In fact, many believe that we have too much telegraphic facility, and that our cities and towns are too full of telegraph poles; and there has been a good deal of discussion in the Committee this year, as to the propriety of allowing the telegraph companies that are now in existence, to extend their connections any further through the cities and towns of the Dominion, because it was felt that they were actually becoming a nuisance instead of a public advantage. I do not know what position we would be placed in if we had another company chartered. I suppose the new company would have to put their posts down the middle of the road, as the existing companies have their posts down each side of

the roads in every city and town throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. My hon. friend from Lambton is in error in saying that the financial standing of the gentlemen, whose names appear in the petition, was impugned. What was questioned was the *bonâ fide* intention of organising a company and of using their own money in the creation of a new telegraph company. The Committee have not had their eyes closed to a series of newspaper articles that have been going the rounds of the Press, from one end of the country to the other, raising the bugbear of the proposed or intended amalgamation between the existing companies, and saying: "Oh, you must grant this charter to the Canadian Telegraph Company, because if you do not, you will find yourselves placed at the mercy of Jay Gould, or some other capitalist who is going to buy up the existing companies." It has been stated by an officer of one of the companies that the rumour of the intended amalgamation had not the slightest foundation whatever, and that there was not the remotest possibility, in view of the existing state of things, of any amalgamation or union, or policy, or anything of the kind between the two companies. My hon. friend has said that two companies are carrying on a bitter and an active warfare in the United States, and that one of these American companies controls and is connected with one of our companies, and the other with the other, and that the said warfare is being carried on here. It is admitted that we have all the telegraphic facilities we want, and that we have no occasion to be alarmed by the idea that we are going to be at the mercy of any capitalist, or any one of those two companies; and unless we are prepared to admit that another company is a public necessity, it seems to me Parliament would be only exercising a wise discrimination in declining to grant this new charter. For these reasons I think the motion in this shape should not be adopted. As to the objection of the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake), I think it is a technical objection as to form, and should have been raised at the time the Report was presented.

MR. MACDOUGALL: I have no objection to alter the motion in any way so as to get the matter before the whole