

SIR F. ROGERS TO SIR E. LUGARD.

(COPY.)

*Downing Street,
27th August, 1862.*

SIR,—

I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to enclose to you for the consideration of Sir G. Lewis, copy of an Act which has been passed by the Legislature of Nova Scotia, entitled, "An Act to authorize the construction of a line of Electric Telegraph, for Military Purposes, from Halifax to the Boundary Line of New Brunswick."

It appears that this Act has been passed at the desire of the War Department, for reasons, which (considering that the existing Electric Telegraph Company is in the hands of an American Company) are sufficiently obvious.

Strong representations have been made to the Duke of Newcastle from various quarters on behalf of the Company, who view this Act as an infringement of their rights. The Duke of Newcastle does not so view it. He considers the Act one which the Legislature was justified in passing, at the desire of Her Majesty's Government, and if Sir G. C. Lewis desires it he will advise that it should be confirmed by Her Majesty.

But His Grace has received a letter from a Director of the Company, of which a copy is enclosed, and which, as it appears to him, may possibly furnish the basis of an arrangement, as convenient, or more so, to Her Majesty's Government as that which is embodied in the the Colonial Act.

He therefore transmits as well the Act itself as Mr. Dickey's letter, and requests to be informed whether Sir G. C. Lewis would desire that Mr. Dickey should be referred to him, with a view to considering an arrangement on the basis of his letter, or that the Act should be at once confirmed.

The Company are adverse to the confirmation of the Act, not so much, they allege, in itself as on account of the precedent which it may furnish for the establishment of rival Companies.

The Act, if allowed at all, must be allowed within three years of its passing, that is, of the 12th of April 1862.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

FREDERICK ROGERS.

SIR E. LUGARD, &c., &c., &c.

SIR E. LUGARD TO SIR F. ROGERS.

(COPY)

*War Office,
9th September, 1862.*

SIR,—

I am directed by Secretary Sir George Lewis to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 27th ultimo, transmitting the copy of an Act which has been passed by the Legislature of Nova Scotia, "to authorize the construction of a line of Electric Telegraph, for Military Purposes, from Halifax to the Boundary Line of New Brunswick," together with the copy of a letter from Mr. Dickey, Director of the Nova Scotia Electric Telegraph Company on the same subject.

In reply, I am to request that you will state to the Duke of Newcastle that this Act will doubtless be of great use, if not indispensable, in the event of its being determined at any time hereafter to construct a separate telegraph for Military purposes; and although Her Majesty's Government has, for the reasons stated in my letter of the 14th May last, abandoned the intention which it professed of laying down such a line, it may nevertheless be advisable that the Act should be confirmed.