

The only words the hon. gentleman has upon where to base the organization of this association and give it power to go to Asia, are those at the end of the paragraph: "so as to connect any Province with any other Province of the Dominion, or to extend beyond the limits of any Province." The Act under which this association is proposed to be organized will not read well. There are several clauses besides the one mentioned by the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Cameron), that could not possibly apply to this case, as there were special circumstances demanding attention at that particular time. I cannot sit down, however, without expressing myself very strongly against the creation of this monopoly; and I am glad to find that, although the sentiment of the House recently was strongly in favor of monopolies, that it is now expressing itself very strongly against them. I am glad also to find that the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Currier), although he voted a few days ago that \$1,600,000 was absolutely unequal security, he now thinks \$800,000 quite sufficient to enable the company to be organized.

Mr. LANGEVIN. In reply to the observations made by the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake), I may say that the tariff of rates is not to be fixed by these resolutions. As to the question of the number of cables, the company may lay down more than one cable, but we do not make it obligatory for the company to do so. It is in the interest of the company, if they decide to spend millions on this enterprise, to see that after one cable has been laid it be supplemented by others, to enable them to obtain the returns they must expect from their investment. Of course there must be a beginning. The company must be authorized to raise money to lay a first cable, and then, no doubt, they would afterwards proceed to lay a second and third cable. With respect to the attitude of the Japanese Government, in a letter written by Mr. Fleming to me the other day he tells me this:

"The Japanese Government have also endorsed the scheme, and conceded landing privileges at a suitable point in Yesso. It is satisfactory to know that substantial progress has been made in that direction."

Of course, I do not expect Mr. Fleming could obtain more information than that, because the matter has been in progress only a short time. I have no doubt this information will be supplemented by fuller information before the report of the Committee is assented to by the House. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Cameron) spoke of the basin of the Pacific Ocean, and clearly showed that the best point to lay a cable was from the Canadian shores, opposite British Columbia, across to Japan. It is the shortest route, and the one where a cable would be least liable to be disturbed. Perhaps the following figures, regarding cable distances, will possess interest to the House:

To be Constructed:		Eng. miles.
From Nanaimo to Quatsino		230
From Quatsino to Walvis Bay at north-east angle of Yesso, including stock		4,240
From Walvis Bay to Satsuporo		300
Total to be constructed		4,770
Established:		Eng. miles.
From Satsuporo to Nagassaki, near south-west angle of Japan		1,100
From Nagassaki to Shanghai		530
From Shanghai to Hong Kong		300
Total established		1,930

The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Cameron) remarked that the Acts mentioned in the resolutions were in conflict on certain points with the resolutions now introduced. The intention is that, after the resolutions have been assented to and the Bill introduced upon them, a clause will be

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introduced to remove the discrepancies between this and the general law. My hon. friend from Victoria thinks it may be too soon to do what we propose. Well, sometimes a little delay causes us to lose a great opportunity of obtaining a great advantage for the country. Our neighbors across the line are alive to the importance of this communication, and Mr. Fleming and his friends have not begun a single hour too soon. If we do not secure this great advantage for Canada now, foreign companies may take the matter up, and we may lose it, at least, for many years. The hon. member for West Durham and other members have spoken about the exclusive privilege to be given to this company for twenty years. There is no doubt that in ordinary undertakings, exclusive privileges should not be given. But from the information I have, I believe that we cannot expect capitalists to invest millions of money in this undertaking, unless they have some security that next Session we shall not be incorporating two or three companies to compete with them. They are not going into this matter simply on patriotic grounds. Mr. Fleming, no doubt, shows a good deal of patriotism in undertaking it; but, like all other men, he would not wish to sink his money and have no return for it. Mr. Fleming, writing to me to-day on this subject, says:

"My object is to see a telegraph to Asia, established as a great Canadian line, and I will gladly join with those most likely to assist in accomplishing this speedily. Nothing can possibly be gained by opposition, except to defeat the whole scheme."

Mr. MACKENZIE. Whose opinion is that?

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Fleming's. He agrees with me in the importance of dealing with this matter speedily, and not leave the opportunity to be taken advantage of by our enterprising neighbors. I have it from Mr. Fleming himself that, without the exclusive privilege mentioned here, he does not believe the company would undertake the work. My hon. friend from Ottawa (Mr. Currier) desires this other company to have the power which is sought for in this resolution. That would be defeating the very object the Government have in view. We believe one company should be incorporated to establish this line, and in order to do that, it is necessary for them to have the exclusive privilege. That privilege is limited to twenty years, which, in the life of a man, is a long time; but in the life of a nation is short. If we can secure this line, it will put England in communication with Asia through our own territory. We must not be dependent always on our neighbors. Having made these observations, I hope the hon. gentleman will allow the motion to pass.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. I think that the Government should not press this matter. It is too important to be decided in a day or two; we ought to have an opportunity for deliberation. The principle of giving exclusive right for twenty years to Mr. Fleming and half-a-dozen others associated with him, to build a telegraphic communication from British Columbia to Asia, is one that involves an enormous concession. After the hon. member for Ottawa has stated that a *bond fide* company has been organized with a view to construct this work, and is willing to put up \$800,000 as a guarantee of their sincerity, it seems to me the Government should delay the resolutions in order to give this proposition ample consideration. Surely the hon. Minister does not desire, when no necessity exists for it, to give the exclusive monopoly for twenty years, of telegraphic communication from British Columbia to Asia, to Mr. Fleming and his associates. It is not in accordance with the sentiment of the House that such a concession should be made, and before we are asked to make it we ought to have every means of information before us; we ought to see the plan of Mr. Fleming and the whole correspondence in reference to the subject.