

Extension Telegraph Company on Thursay afternoon, Mr. Crick had to leave for Sydney before a clean copy of the amended and proposed new clauses had been made. Yesterday Mr. Watt forwarded to Mr. Crick a full copy of these, and Mr. W. Warren, manager in Australasia for the company, who is at present in Adelaide, has also been supplied with the result of the conference's deliberations. It is understood that Mr. Warren has referred the amended and new clauses suggested by Mr. Crick and Mr. Watt to his directors in London for their consideration. From Adelaide Mr. Warren will proceed to Freemantle, but his absence from Victoria will not hinder the conduct of negotiations, which will be continued by telegraph if necessary.

Adelaide, Friday.

The alterations in the proposals of the Eastern Extension Company for laying a cable from the Cape to Glenelg, as suggested by Mr. Crick and Mr. Watt, have been submitted to Mr. Warren, the Australasian manager of the company. The ministers mentioned telegraphed to Mr. Warren, inquiring whether the company would insert in the agreement a purchase clause, to be read in conjunction with the arbitration clause. Mr. Warren replied that the arbitration clause had been cancelled, and that the purchase clause would depend upon its conditions, and upon whether it was approved by the contracting colonies before he submitted it to his board in London. He added: 'The agreement having been completed with the three colonies of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, cannot be altered, and will be strictly adhered to.'

The last extract with which I will trouble the House is this: On the 23rd of May the *Times* published the following in its report of the proceedings of the Imperial House of Commons. I would point out that the despatch was read in the Imperial House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Eastern Telegraph Company.

In reply to Sir C. Dilke (Gloucester, Forest of Dean),

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach) said.—Arrangements have been made with the Eastern Telegraph Company by which landing rights will be given for the cable to St. Vincent, one of the conditions of which is the laying of a cable from Ascension to Sierra Leone. The Eastern Telegraph Company has entered into an agreement with the colonies of West and South Australia and Tasmania to construct with all convenient speed the line from Durban to Mauritius, Rodrigues, Cocos and Freemantle in West Australia, and thence to Glenelg, South Australia, as soon as landing rights have been granted. Landing rights have been granted in Natal and in West and South Australia, and the company has been informed that Her Majesty's government are prepared to approve the granting of landing rights at Mauritius, Rodrigues and Cocos, and will issue licenses as soon as the general form of license now under consideration has been settled.

If the information contained in these despatches is reliable, it is quite evident that the object which Canada was so anxious to have realized, namely, the ownership by the different colonies and the home government of the cable, will be utterly impaired if not imperilled. It may be said that some of the points referred to in these despatches

Mr. BELCOURT.

do not cover the matters provided for in the agreement entered into between the different colonies and the home government, but my object in bringing the matter before the House is to ask not only that the Canadian government shall make such representations to the Imperial government as will insure the ownership of this cable by the different governments, but also that all cables which shall in future be laid between British possessions shall be laid under a provision looking to state ownership in the future. In these days when we hear so many plans for promoting Imperial unity and prosperity, it seems to me that we should give our attention and our efforts principally to these projects which are practical and business-like, and which, to my mind, will bring about Imperial unity and prosperity far surer than a great many of the sentimental and hysterical schemes that are propounded. No scheme will tend to promote more efficaciously the strength, unity and prosperity of the British Empire than an all British line of cable uniting the British possessions, and encircling the globe. I ask that the government shall make such representations to the Imperial authorities, if they have not already been made, as will prevent the granting of concessions to this huge monopoly, the Eastern Telegraph Company; concessions which must in the future render it impossible to have state ownership in the cables now contemplated, and in other cables which in the future it may be desirable to lay between British possessions. I think, Sir, that in recent times, Canada has shown such an interest in Imperial matters that we can with very good grace; in fact, that we have the right to make representations of this sort, in a matter in which not only the Dominion, but the empire is deeply interested. I trust that if the Canadian government has not already made the representations to which I have alluded they will lose no time in bringing them to the attention of the Imperial authorities.

Mr. GEORGE CASEY (West Elgin). Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Belcourt) has again brought this important subject to the notice of the House. The hon. gentleman has done so in a most practical way, he having done so at the request of the board of trade of this city, a body whose opinions on such a matter cannot be lightly overlooked. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Belcourt) in urging upon the government the necessity for immediately representing in the strongest manner to the Imperial authorities, that in any agreement allowing the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company to land its cable at Mauritius or Cocos, or at any other point on British territory on which it must land, there should be a clause providing for government purchase. This House and the government have strongly held, ever since the bargain was