

that no legislation should take place on the matter, but that a year should be allowed to elapse, in which a better and more complete arrangement can be made.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT — I think, after my explanations, it is wholly unwarrantable for any hon. gentleman to indulge in such insinuations as we have heard from the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat. I can satisfy any hon. gentleman who wishes for the information that, long before Mr. Fleming's scheme was submitted to Parliament, correspondence had taken place with the promoters of the Bill showing that it was the intention of the Company to lay a cable to Japan, and such was the information afforded to the Committee of the other House. This matter was fully discussed by the press of the country. The Railway Committee, which is the largest Committee of the House of Commons, it is well known, stopped Mr. Fleming's Bill at the very outset. They would not consent to give Mr. Fleming exclusive privileges, because they were satisfied that another Company was also aiming at laying a cable across the Pacific. They would not recognize a monopoly. We know the effect of the Anglo-American monopoly, and how we have endeavored to get rid of it from year to year. There are provinces in this Dominion still under that monopoly, and you cannot get a message from them at less than four or five times the ordinary rates. The men who form this Company have procured their charter for the purpose of breaking up this monopoly. I do not think it is quite proper for the House, at this particular period of the session, to be made the medium of an attack on myself personally — because I feel in some degree it is an attack upon myself and on my probity. I have never, since I have been a member of this House, laid myself open to such a charge. I am invariably frank and open in dealing with the legislation that I have in charge.

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL — I do not propose to say anything on the merits of the matter itself, but I think the hon. Senator from Amherst was unfortunate in giving this as an instance of want of time for the discussion of mea-

*Hon. Mr. Cornwall.*

asures laid before us. This Bill was introduced in the Senate by the leader of the Opposition on the 20th of January, so that it is impossible for any one to say that it is one of the cases in which the House has not had abundance of time. It was read the second time on the 24th of January, and was sent to the House of Commons in the usual way. I think this session particularly there is no ground for complaint of any want of abundance of time being given the House for the consideration of all questions which came before it. With regard to the matter under discussion, it is too delicate for a member of the Government to discuss. The Bill has received the sanction of both Houses of Parliament, whose servants the Government are.

Hon. Mr. CORNWALL — The hon. Senator from Amherst did not complain of any want of time for discussing the Bill before it was sent down to the other House; his remarks applied to the time when it was returned to this House with amendments.

Hon. Mr. MILLER — Last year I felt it my duty to enter a very earnest protest against the manner in which legislation had come up from the other branch of Parliament at the close of the session. I think it is only fair, under the altered circumstances this year, to compliment the Government on the decided improvement which has taken place in that respect during the present session of Parliament. We have had very important measures initiated here, and had full time to discuss them. We have not, on any one single day up to the close of the session, been behind with our work, a very unusual thing, and one which, perhaps, has never occurred before since Confederation. We have been able to keep up with it, and give it all the time that we thought it deserved. I must say I think the Government is not in a position to be animadverted upon this session for the manner in which they presented measures to this House, and I only hope the good departure they have made this year will be followed up in subsequent sessions, and that we will be able to congratulate them in the same way at the close of future sessions.