

United States, in connection with the east coast of America; that the working of the telegraph and the proceedings of the company in British Columbia will be subject to such general laws as may be passed for the regulation of telegraphic communication, which will probably provide that in the colony of British Columbia messages to be sent on behalf of the Imperial or Colonial Government will take precedence of all others, and that the Government may take possession of the telegraph for its own purposes in case of emergency, subject, of course, to reasonable compensation.

Lastly, it must be clearly secured, as a condition of the whole arrangement, that the general arrangements of the telegraph shall be such as to place English, Russian and American messages upon an equal footing in regard to the use of the line.

Her Majesty's Government do not doubt that these matters can be satisfactorily arranged on the basis suggested by the Russian Government in the following extract from General Melnikoff's letter of the 23d of May, 1863: "The expedition and tariff of despatches must be in accordance with the rules generally adopted for telegraphs. Therefore the Government despatches must have precedence over private despatches, as agreed upon by telegraph convention between Russia and the neighboring European Powers; and, upon the whole, the order of transmission and tariff must be arranged according to the example of international conventions concluded by and between the different Powers concerned."

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

T. FRED'K ELLIOT.

P. McD. COLLINS, Esq.

Act of Congress of the United States of America, granting right of way and aid to Perry McDonough Collins, for the construction of a line of telegraph connecting the United States with Europe by way of the North Pacific and Asiatic Russia:

38TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION.

In the Congress of the United States.

[Public Act—No. 171.]

AN Act to encourage and facilitate telegraphic communication between the Eastern and Western Continents.

Whereas, the Governments of Russia and Great Britain have granted to Perry MacDonough Collins, a citizen of the United States, the right to construct and maintain a line of electric telegraph through their respective territories, from the mouth of the Amoor River, in Asiatic Russia, by way of Behring's Strait and along the Pacific coast, to the northern boundary of the United States, with a view of thereby uniting the telegraphic systems of both continents, and of promoting international and commercial intercourse; and whereas the Government of Russia, in furtherance of that object, is now constructing a line of telegraph through its Asiatic territory to unite, at the mouth of the Amoor River, with the line projected by said Collins; and whereas the Government of the United States desires cordially to co-operate with Russia and