

York. The story of the efforts in the United States, however, does not immediately pertain to the present sketch, except so far as it is necessary to say that in due time a company was organized in Maine, and that the importance of a line through the province was early recognized in St. John. So far as this province is concerned, however, it remained for a citizen of the United States to work up the interest and carry the project into effect. His name was L. R. Darrow.

Mr. Smith, representing the assignees of the Morse patent, was heard from again in February, 1848. At a meeting of the St. John Chamber of Commerce, on the 23d of that month, the then U. S. consul, Israel D. Andrews, presented a letter from Smith, proposing the establishment of a line through New Brunswick to connect Halifax with the lines then building through Maine. It was thereupon resolved—

"That the Chamber has long looked forward to such a line, and consider its establishment as of the first importance to the interests of this Province, and do therefore recommend that every facility and encouragement be given to any Company undertaking to carry into effect such a desirable object; and that Messrs. Duncan, Thurgar and Jardine be a Committee to prepare a Bill and Petition to be laid before the Legislature for the purpose of obtaining an Act of Incorporation for the Company, and to correspond with and lend assistance to any parties inclined to embark in the undertaking."

The committee lost no time in having a bill prepared to incorporate the New Brunswick Telegraph Company. The incorporators named in the bill were Thomas Leavitt, Charles Ward, William M'Lauchlan, John Duncan, Robert Jardine, John V. Thurgar, Israel D. Andrews, Francis O. J. Smith, Nathan Cummings and Amos Kendall, the last four being citizens of the United States. The bill came before the legislature on the 4th of March, and on the 30th of that month it became law. On the 10th of May, Mr. Darrow, assignee of the Morse patent, arrived in St. John, and