

erested, in the
rprise. Their
nothing unless
at the Govern-
rify the sound-
event of these
to be accurate,
to be employed
wire. That is
overnment have
t. They agree,
ceptance, that
the purpose of
dings, and will
proposition to
t may see fit in
se, therefore,
to our country
ment.

if it looked to
s a consequent
Great Britain,
t Government
000 additional,
e here, or even
ment in secur-
n looked to its
f it is of such
event of war,
nequality in a
o suppose that
of the line in
t once, if she
secure to her-
ngine for pur-
judgment it is
emen exagger-
h in the sup-
tween Great
ough I admit
n would tend
y of a war of
viewed by the
I am at a loss
e could avail
d commenced.
ry certain that
s practicable,
ter into this
that we secure
made without
ndition? Do
of \$70,000 a
s telegraph if
to her inter-
now \$900,000
mails between
Do you sup-
ch will make
e presumes it
event of war,

legraph wire,
r we consent
—is it not a
to our Gov-
of communi-
uring time of

peace, although all means are cut off in the event of war? Are the terms asked too great? There is nothing asked in the first instance except the ordinary use of the vessels of the Navy. You can comply with that with only a trivial expense; and it is only in the event of the service being successful that you are to pay \$70,000, if the proceeds of the company do not amount to six per cent.; and if they do, you are only to pay \$50,000. That is all you are to pay for the exclusive right, in connection with the Government of Great Britain, of the prior transmission of intelligence that may be deemed important by your agents in Europe, or by your Government here to your agents there, to the exclusion of the public at large.

Is not that of immense importance to the Government of this country? Is it not of sufficient importance to justify an expenditure of \$50,000 a year? In my judgment it would justify an expenditure of five times the sum rather than undergo the disadvantages which you would be placed under by excluding yourselves from this right, which is all the right granted to Great Britain, and which the Government of Great Britain, when the proposition was made, at once accepted? I confess I think the terms of their acceptance are in a spirit of entire liberality to this country, securing as they do to this Government, as well as to the Government of Great Britain, equal rights throughout. I see no cause for jealousy here. I see no cause in this case, whatever there may have been in others, to impute to the Government of Great Britain a desire to take any advantage from the construction of this submarine telegraph. The terms are offered, and the answers are before you. After saying what she is willing to pay, she stipulates (and these are the only things material to us) that the British Government is to have priority in the conveyance of messages over all others, except the Government of the United States; and that as between her and the Government of the United States, the rule is to be, the message, when received, shall be first transmitted.

Mr. MALLORY. It seems to be conceded on all hands that there is no constitutional objection to the passage of this bill, and the arguments against it have resolved themselves into considerations of expediency solely. We may differ as to the expediency of passing the bill; and I have therefore noted, with a great deal of care, the objections taken in the debate on the point of expediency. I noticed particularly those from the chairman of the Committee on Finance, [Mr. HUNTER,] which were characteristic of the position he occupies before the Senate as chairman of that committee. I will briefly notice these objections, to show how slight they are, and how immediately they vanish on investigation. The first was the great consideration of the cable parting in laying down the wire. I understand the Government is not liable if the parties do not succeed in the enterprise. The second was, that we shall pay more than our dispatches are worth. Who knows it? Who knows what the dispatches will be worth? Contingencies may arise in the history of this country when a single dispatch may be worth \$5,000 a word, or ten times that sum. Another objection, one made by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, [Mr. BETLER,] was,

that this was simply a mail service under the surveillance of Great Britain. That is not tenable. The authority given in the bill to the President to contract with the parties includes the power of contracting on conditions; and we must suppose he would be recreant to his duty if he were not to contract that all dispatches by, or to the Government of the United States, should pass through its confidential agents alone. The system would not only be worse than useless, but it would be a great injury to us if your communications were to pass through any other than our own confidential agents; and as a matter of course the President would so contract. I had drawn up an amendment for that purpose; but when I saw that there was in the bill ample power for the President to do that, I refrained from offering it.

If we decline the proposition made to us by this company, what is to preclude Great Britain from acquiring the right of exercising a surveillance over both termini of the line? And in the exercise of this power, implying a knowledge of every dispatch sent over it, we can readily perceive the blighting influence she might at pleasure exercise upon our public affairs. Sir, I understand that my friend the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, speaking of it as a war measure, said that the interests of the two countries will preserve peace, and no device of this kind will save us from the perils of war. I concede that, but this is one of those measures which multiply the interests of the country, which bring the cotton-planters of his State within twenty-four hours of the great markets of Europe. It will take the profits heretofore shared by the cotton speculators of Europe, and place them at the door of the cotton-planter. He at all times during his growing crop will have power to know what his crop is worth in the markets of Liverpool, which govern the markets of the entire world.

As a war measure this project cannot be considered. War will put an end, as a matter of course, to all these relations. The project conceived by the Senator from Ohio of neutralizing one portion of the American continent was, I presume, introduced for the simple purpose of killing the bill; but certainly not with any idea that Great Britain would ever consent to neutralize any portion of Newfoundland, or the other side of the continent, for our accommodation in the event of war. She has, in a recent postal treaty with France, stipulated expressly that each party shall have one mail steamer across the Channel, which shall not be molested or interrupted during war; but I know of no similar concession that she has ever made, and certainly she never would make one of this kind.

My friend from Illinois spoke of fishing this cable up. He has not probably looked to the details of the soundings made by our own seamen, and to the effect that this wire will sink some foot or more—we cannot tell certainly—beneath the surface of the bottom of the ocean. The idea of fishing in between seventeen hundred and fifty and nineteen hundred fathoms of water, with an anchor, for this chain, is novel and untenable.

American genius, sir, has discovered or practically devised the means, as I conceive, of belting the world instantaneously—of sending the