

silent on the 4th of September, 1858; the slavery agitation in the United States culminated in a civil war, convulsing one continent, and paralysing the public activities in all the continents; and Canada, struggling with financial depression and political dissension, was groping slowly towards Confederation. Those were dark days—but the leaders of men and events, in all the English speaking communities, bated not one jot of heart or hope. Passing other questions, the International Telegraph system suffered no neglect. For eight long years—from 1858 to 1866—while there was no abandonment of the scheme of an Atlantic cable—there was a most energetic movement by the Hudson's Bay Company, and the Western Union Telegraph Company, seconded nobly by the Governments of Canada, the United States, British Columbia and Russia, to reach London through Northwest British America, by the coasts and islands of Alaska and the plains and cities of Siberia; and it is in connection with that worldwide enterprise that Dr. John Rae became again identified with the history and progress of North America. He surveyed and designated the route from Fort Garry to Victoria, and accumulated at both points the materials for the construction of a continental telegraph—a portion of which, under Canadian auspices, was afterwards in 1871 utilized in connecting the Province of Manitoba with the Eastern Provinces and the "rest of mankind." Granted that the successful laying of the Atlantic cable on the 27th July, 1866, postponed the consummation of his labors, but none the less be honor to the march of Dr. Rae and his party across the continent 18 years since. He is welcome now in 1882 to overtake his former footsteps by rail, and to mark the innumerable signs that the world is following in his trail of 1864.

The motion was unanimously carried and the meeting broke up.