

the French Telegraph Company, which sought to obtain a special concession for a length of time in bringing that cable to their shores. The Act under which the company enjoyed their monopoly in Newfoundland was passed by the Legislature of Newfoundland in 1854, and they had by its terms a fifty years' concession, but it was provided in the Act that the Island Government might at any time after the expiration of twenty years exercise a right of pre-emption. It was generally supposed, he observed in the papers, and in some of the speeches of gentlemen who had discussed this matter, that this monopoly embraced the cable between England and Newfoundland. That was an entire mistake. The Newfoundland Company simply had a monopoly upon the Island, and in the cable, so far as they could give it, stretching from the Island to Cape Breton, and from Newfoundland to the Island of Prince Edward. The cable from Newfoundland to Prince Edward Island was never laid, and it was a question whether they enjoyed any rights at all in reference to that at the present moment as the Company transferred their supposed rights without the sanction of the Prince Edward Island Legislature before the Confederation of that Island with the Dominion,—without the sanction of the Dominion Legislature since the Union—without the sanction of either party who were capable of giving that sanction. But in order that there could be no possible difficulty on that score he had provided in the Bill this year that whatever rights they might possess—that was the Company to whom the transfer was made—of a legal character, in Prince Edward Island, would be reserved to them. In 1856 the Government of the United States passed an Act which had for its object the promotion of cable telegraph communication, and which contemplated the granting of a monopoly to some Company in order to attain that object. It was known to those who were conversant with the matter that HER MAJESTY'S Government at the time, disallowed this Act. The reason was given in a despatch dated 18th January, 1858, in which Mr. LABOUCHERE, the then Colonial Secretary, states, "This Act purports to give the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company (subject to their performance of certain conditions, and

to the conclusion of the agreement specified in Section 6) the exclusive right to furnish the Province with the means of telegraphic communication for a period of 25 years. I wish to refer you to the despatch addressed to you by Sir GEORGE GREY, when holding the seals of this department, on this subject, under date of the 22nd March, 1855." He (Mr. MACKENZIE) had searched for this despatch, but had failed to find it. "HER MAJESTY'S Government sees no reason to modify the views expressed in that despatch and its enclosures, which have, on the contrary, gained additional force by later experience. They consider that the grant for such exclusive privileges is highly inexpedient, not only for the interests of the Province, but of the Empire in general. They are fully aware that it was urged that similar privileges have been conceded by the Legislatures of Newfoundland and of Prince Edward Island without the disallowance of the Crown. But they must reply that the implied sanction of these acts, given without fully advertent to considerations, the magnitude of which has been ever since acquiring a greater development, does not bind them to a continuance in a course of policy, which, they are satisfied, cannot but prove extremely injurious, and thus beyond the limits of the colony immediately concerned." Such was the view of HER MAJESTY'S Government at that time, and he had no reason to doubt that such was the view entertained by them still. At the present time the position of the matter was this: In May or June, 1873, the Newfoundland Company which possessed the limited monopoly that he had adverted to,—that is, merely the privileges of the land of the Island and the cables to Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island—effected an amalgamation with the English Company, formed, he believed, under the English Joint Stock Act which owned the cable between the Island and Ireland. This amalgamation was effected under powers given by the Act of the Colonial Legislature under the name of the Anglo-American Cable Company. That was the company that now presumed to assert the right of monopoly upon the Island, and also to land their cable on Nova Scotia. To be sure they did not assert that they