

insulation, and weight of armor required. In the above cables, the protection would be the most important feature. The crossing and landing places would require to be carefully selected with the view of getting places sheltered from strong currents, ice, and heavy seas.

While considering that the route I have proposed would be the best, it would, perhaps, be a much easier and less expensive way (so far as obtaining communication with the Island of Anticosti is concerned) to at once put down the cable from Griffin's Cove to south-west point, as land lines are already completed to the former point.

As the cables are so short they could all be worked by the ordinary Morse operators, and expensive instruments such as have to be used on long cables, would not be necessary.

(Signed,) HUGH NEILSON.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
March 23rd, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—As requested, I now submit, though very briefly, for the consideration of the Committee, my opinion in reference to the establishment of submarine telegraphic communication with the Magdalen Islands.

That the establishment of such communication between these Islands and the residue of the Dominion would be of mutual benefit, I think admits of no doubt whatever. Codfish, mackerel and herring frequently strike in at these shores in great plenty for short periods, sometimes continuing no longer than a week. The run is generally over before its existence becomes known to the fishermen on the mainland. With telegraphic communication the fishermen of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island would know when fish had struck in, and could at once proceed on and be very likely to secure a part of them. This telegraphic communication would also prove of very great benefit to the shipping interest; for, besides the vessels owned in the Islands, and there are several, a large number resort there during the fishing season, and many of these frequently get on shore and otherwise disabled. I think it was in the gale of August, 1873, that over forty vessels were driven on shore in Amherst Harbor alone. Some of these were American vessels, others of them belonged to different parts of the Dominion. The owners in most cases had to be communicated with, but for want of the telegraph two to three weeks elapsed before this could be done and assistance or instructions received by those in charge.

Any one having any knowledge at all of the fishing, shipping and general business of the Magdalen Islands, and which are growing in extent and importance every year, will, I feel sure, admit the great desirability of the proposed telegraphic communication.

As I have already said, it would prove of great benefit to the fishing and trading interests outside the Islands, and of paramount advantage and convenience to the inhabitants, and would, most certainly, be highly appreciated by them.

Yours, &c.,
(Signed,) P. POWER.

Hon. T. ROBITAILLE,
Chairman, Submarine Telegraph Committee.

OTTAWA, March 23rd, 1876.

SIR,—The advantages which will be secured to the Dominion by the inauguration of marine telegraphy, as suggested by the Honorable P. Fortin cannot be too highly appreciated. From an experience extending over a term of 25 years in the surveying and raising of vessels wrecked in the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, I am able to