

cause they tried to open up communication with the Island upon the present system. I would like to ask how, in the name of all that is peculiar, they could determine whether or not the plan was practicable, unless they tried an experiment? They were not experimenting with the people of Prince Edward Island but with a particular build of steamers. Hon. gentlemen opposite appear to be experimenting with the people of the Island in trying to find out how long the Conservatives of the Island will remain content without winter communication, with a Conservative Government in power. Their experiment however may be terminated very soon, because I believe the people of that Province are not in the habit of suffering grievances without grumbling, and when they do grumble they are simply performing their duty not merely as citizens of the Island but as British subjects whose prerogative it is to grumble. The hon. member for Prince County says the *Northern Light* was not built for this service. Well, Sir, he admits that it was built for winter service in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and hence for similar conditions to those to be met in the straits, and it was finished with special reference to the needs of the straits. It was designed and built by experts in such matters. I ask what better experiment could be made for winter navigation what more likely to succeed, than to take a vessel so built and try to use her for several winters in the straits? The hon. gentleman said that if competition had been invited from the world, tenders obtained, and better steamers put on the route, communication might now be open. Well, Sir, his friends have been in power for four years—why have they not got better steamers? Why have they not carried out their pledges and kept the communication open? Simply because they are making an experiment with the people of Prince Edward Island. I think, however, that my hon. friend who opened this debate need not be so anxious about the carrying out of this pledge, because he has the former pledge of the hon. Minister of Railways—given, however, while in Opposition—to carry out these Terms. In a debate in 1876 on this matter, the hon. Mr. Tupper is reported to have said:—

“I do not say the service ever will or can be done by anybody, but I say that the Government of Canada are pledged to the people of Prince Edward Island, to use all the means in their power to establish this service, and until every means is exhausted, whether it succeeds or not, the Government will not have fulfilled that pledge. * * * I do not say it is possible for the Government, by any policy they can adopt or by any efforts they can make, to bridge the Straits of Northumberland in the winter season, but I do say, in the Terms of Union, the Government and Parliament of Canada have bound themselves solemnly to accomplish that object. * * * Then the hon. gentleman will see it is still more necessary to prove it is impossible to do it before we can be relieved in the slightest degree of the obligation we have undertaken, and show we have not been guilty of bad faith.”

Now, Sir, they have not shown that it was impossible. An experiment has been made, not by them, but by the Liberal Government. An effort has been made to bridge these straits, and it failed for the time being. Does that show that it was impossible? That was the attempt of a lot of “blundering incapable Grits” who were not supposed to know anything about such matters. Hon. gentlemen opposite have had four years in which to see whether it was possible or impossible, and they have not made any attempt to decide the matter. One would think, from the hon. the Minister of Railways portentous eloquence in 1876, that he would have made the thing possible, and then have done it; but up to the present time he has done nothing. Under these circumstances, it is not the people of Prince Edward Island alone who should grumble, but the people of Canada who are separated from them by the failure of the Government to carry out their pledges. There was another consideration which should lead us to think that they would do so. It was part of the Terms of Union with British Columbia that a railway should be built to connect that Province with the rest of the Dominion. We have seen how millions of dollars

Mr. CASEY.

have been spent to carry out this agreement, and it is reasonable for the people of Prince Edward Island to demand that similar efforts should be made to secure connection with the far more important Province of Prince Edward Island.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

MOTIONS FOR RETURNS.

The following Motions for Returns were severally agreed to:—

Copies of all correspondence, petitions, and other documents, respecting the appointment of a Postmaster at Scottsville, in St. John's County, Province of Quebec, from the date of the resignation of Daniel Salt, up to the present time.—(Mr. Bourassa.)

Copies of all Order in Council and the Commissions issued to certain persons, in connection with claims made on the Government, arising out of the construction of the Intercolonial Railway; of all instructions to and correspondence with the Commissioners, and Statements of the matters referred to them so far: and of the remuneration to be paid to them and the Secretary of the Commission; Statement of the number of days during which the Commission has sat so far.—(Mr. Blake.)

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 6 o'clock p.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

TUESDAY, 20th February, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were severally introduced, and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 18) to incorporate the University of Saskatchewan, and to authorize the establishment of Colleges within the Diocese of Saskatchewan.—(Mr. Williams.)

Bill (No. 19) to incorporate the Révérends Pères Oblats de Marie Immaculée des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.—(Mr. Royal.)

Bill (No. 20) to empower the National Insurance Company to wind up its affairs, and relinquish its charter, and to provide for the dissolution of the said Company.—(Mr. Coursol.)

KING'S COUNTY (P.E.I.) ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honor to inform the House that, in obedience to the Order of the House made yesterday, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is in attendance at the Table, with the Returns of the last Election for the Electoral District of King's County, P.E.I.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I suppose these documents, or at all events as many of them as are necessary to a clear understanding of the circumstances of the election in King's County, P. E. I., will be printed. I wish to state to the hon. the First Minister, that I purpose following up my motion of yesterday with such a resolution as, in my judgment, the facts, when we shall have mastered them, will warrant. I understand there are some complicated and difficult questions involved in the case, and it will be import-