

there should be a tunnel or subway built across the Straits of Northumberland?

HON. MR. PROWSE—The hon. gentleman asks a question which would take a philosopher and more than a philosopher to answer. How it is possible for me to say what intention the delegates had in their minds? Our Government and people take the terms as they find them. I am no lawyer, but I do claim to have a little common sense, and I take it that this is perhaps a good point in law, that where an agent or representative enters into a contract with another agent or representative, for their employers, it does not matter what is in the mind of the agents. The important question is what is in the body of the contract.

HON. MR. DEVER—Shylock once had a contract also.

HON. MR. PROWSE—These terms came before the people, and the people took them as they found them in print, and not as they were impressed upon the minds of the delegates who entered into the contract. There might be many considerations which would induce the agent to say: "Put something in there that will please the people and satisfy the people and secure their votes, and I will do the best I can to get the people to consent to it if you will secure me afterwards." There might be an arrangement of that kind, but here are the terms written in plain English, well worded, and we only ask that these terms shall be carried out according to the reasonable acceptance of the agreement.

HON. MR. POWER—The hon. gentleman says he is not a lawyer? Still he shows a certain amount of skill in evading the question. Leaving the agents aside, will the hon. gentleman say whether or not, about the time the terms were made for union with Prince Edward Island, it was stated by any one at that time that these terms involved the construction of a tunnel or subway?

HON. MR. PROWSE—We were never told that it would only be communication by water—by navigation.

HON. MR. READ—It might be an aerial communication.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—The hon. gentleman from Murray Harbor stated that the population of British Columbia when the Province entered the Confederation was only 15,000, and he declined to take my word for it that it was more than that. I would refer him to the Statutes of 1872, sec. 3 of the British Columbia terms of Confederation.

HON. MR. POWER—That does not prove that the population was 60,000.

HON. MR. PROWSE—They were allowed to come in with a supposed population of 60,000, but the population was not 60,000, and I must see the Census before I can believe it, because this document was prepared very carefully, and if any wrong assertion was made in it, it would be discovered. I have some recollection of the terms with British Columbia, and my recollection is that that Province was allowed to come in with a supposed population of 60,000.

HON. MR. POWER—This has been a Prince Edward Island day up to the present time, and I suppose we may as well make a whole day of it. I think that the terms of union between Prince Edward Island and Canada have to be regarded with respect to the state of engineering and scientific knowledge at the time the arrangement was entered into. I am informed on the very best authority, that is by the hon. gentleman from Charlottetown, that when the negotiations took place between the two Governments, that hon. gentleman, who then led the Government of Prince Edward Island, proposed winter steam navigation; and Mr., now Sir Leonard Tilley, who was the delegate from the Canadian Government, and who was dealing with the hon. gentleman from Charlottetown, as representing the Prince Edward Island Government, in reply to the proposal made on behalf of Prince Edward Island, spoke of the recent successful experiment in keeping navigation open in winter between Quebec and Point Levi by means of a steamer, and Mr. Tilley inferred from it that there would be no greater difficulty in keeping navigation open across the Straits of Northumberland than there was in keeping the navigation of the St. Lawrence open. The terms used in the bargain were the terms adopted by the report of the Privy Council of Canada, and submitted