

after a persistent remonstrance on their part against working their passage. All the other travellers, numbering about a dozen, were obliged to assist in drawing the boats.

It is said to be the contention of the Dominion Government that the utmost has been done to carry out the terms under which the Island entered the Union, that the efforts made by the "Northern Light" prove the impossibility of providing continuous steam service, and the report of the Parliamentary Committee is appealed to in verification of this contention. In that report it is recommended that the Government adopt Capes Traverse and Tormentine as the points of communication for mails and passengers, and the Committee also made several other recommendations which have not been acted upon by the Dominion Government, although three years have elapsed since that time. Beyond the abortive efforts of the "Northern Light" no attempt has been made to provide steam service. At the narrowest place—between Capes Traverse and Tormentine—steam, in any way, has never been applied, and no means of crossing have been used, except the ice-boat system, adopted about 60 years ago and continued, almost without improvement, to the present time. The Dominion Government, not having tried steam at the Capes, as recommended by the Parliamentary Committee, are in no better position now to say that steam communication is impracticable than they were at the time of Confederation.

The undersigned therefore submit that the Dominion Government have failed to carry out the terms of Confederation, and they are unable to agree with the High Commissioner that it is not a failure because the default is at present applied to only a part of those terms. When it is shown that the Dominion Government have failed in performing any portion of the conditions, it cannot surely be inconsistent with the fact to assert that there is a failure in carrying out the terms.

If what the Dominion Government have agreed to perform is impracticable by steam navigation, then it is clearly their duty to provide communication by other means, and should they ultimately fail and thus demonstrate the impossibility of their undertaking, then Prince Edward Island is unquestionably, on every principle of justice, entitled to an indemnity, covering the failure of the past and applying to the future, as the province has performed its part of the compact, and Canada receives, at least, its full consideration.

The contention of the High Commissioner that the progress of Prince Edward Island, referred to by the undersigned in their letter of 1st inst., "does not indicate that much injury has resulted to the Island from the want of continuous steam service, and clearly proves the benefit derived from the connexion of the island with the Confederation, and the improved service since 1873," is, the undersigned submit, wholly unwarranted. It is notorious that the progress of Prince Edward Island was equally great during the 13 years previous to Confederation, when, the High Commissioner contends, the means of communication were less efficient than they have been since. The undersigned are not now called upon to express any opinion on the advantage or disadvantage of Confederation to Prince Edward Island, as that point is beside the question at issue.

The undersigned regret that they have been obliged to extend these observations further than they could desire, and they feel that after the lengthened interviews with which your Lordship has favoured them, it is unnecessary to add to the information now in the Colonial Office, although the subject is by no means exhausted.

Prince Edward Island appeals to the Imperial Government, at whose request it entered the Union, to interpose their influence with the Government of Canada, in order that justice may be done in the premises, and that the harmony which is so desirable between the different members of the Confederation shall prevail.

In conclusion, the undersigned desire to express their sense of the deep obligation they are under to your Lordship for the courtesy that has been shown them, and for the readiness and attention with which all their communications have been received.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) W. W. SULLIVAN.
D. FERGUSON.

The Right Honourable Earl Granville, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.