

not considered applicable and acceptable to the people of that Province, and the consequence was that the Union took place between Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, while Prince Edward Island did not come into the Union until six years afterwards, in 1873. It was well known, however, not only to the Dominion of Canada at that time, but also to the people of Prince Edward Island, that it was the earnest desire of the whole people of this Canada of ours, as well as the desire of the British Government and the British people, that a Confederation of all the British Provinces should take place, and overtures were repeatedly made and efforts put forth to induce not only Newfoundland, but Prince Edward Island also, to enter the Union from 1867 to 1873. In 1869 I think was the first time that a proposition came to the Island embodying the terms which are now under consideration, and I think it is well worth considering a little closely the peculiar wording of the terms of Union embodied in the resolution of my hon. friend from Alberton. Before doing so I may say, however, that one of the reasons why Prince Edward Island did not enter into the Union with the other Provinces was principally owing to her isolation. We said we had in Prince Edward Island a people as intelligent, as well qualified, and as strong armed as any in the rest of this Dominion, but owing to our isolation for half the year, being cut off from the markets of the other Provinces, it is impossible for Prince Edward Island to enter into the race with the other Provinces while this barrier is in the way. In 1869, the Dominion Government offered to remove this barrier, in the terms of Union now under consideration. I wish to call the attention of this House to the peculiar wording of the terms, and I was a little surprised and sorry to hear my hon. friend from Charlottetown state, for the first time in my recollection, that those terms simply meant steamship communication, or communication by water. I can remember long enough back to recollect when these terms first came to Prince Edward Island, and I can understand the circumstances under which they were offered by the Government of the Province at that time. My hon. friend was leader of the Provincial Government at that time and he and his colleagues found themselves getting rather under water and they came

to the Dominion Government and asked for admission to the Confederation. They came to the Island and offered the terms that had been agreed upon to the people of the Island, and these were part of the terms. Very honestly and very properly the Government did not attempt to carry out the Union without submitting the terms to the people. They appealed to the people and I contested a constituency in opposition to the terms that those gentlemen had negotiated, because I did not believe that they were sufficient for the Province. I never heard during that campaign, and I have never heard up to this time, that the terms referred to here meant simply and solely communication by water. It is the first time that it has ever been stated in Prince Edward Island or here, but whatever the hon. gentleman's opinion may have been, or whatever may have been the opinion of his colleagues, I take it that it does not bind the people of Prince Edward Island. We must take the terms as they were submitted to the people and examine them as they are. There is not one word in them about water communication. They knew perfectly well or ought to have known that it was impossible to maintain efficient and continuous communication by water in the winter season.

HON. MR. POWER—I understood the hon. gentleman to say that these terms of Union that were originally agreed upon were not accepted by the people—that the Government was defeated. Did the hon. gentleman when he made his terms of Union understand that the communication was to be by means of a tunnel or subway?

HON. MR. PROWSE—If the hon. gentleman will wait he can have an opportunity to reply afterwards. The people of the Province did not accept the terms negotiated by my hon. friend, and they returned a party to power which negotiated better terms with the Dominion Government. I may say, however, that there was no change made in this particular part of the terms.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—The first proposal to give Prince Edward Island steam communication all the year round occurred in 1869. That was at the period when what are called Better Terms were proposed. Subsequently, when the same Gov-