

of the coast between Gaspé and Matane. That at least would be a relief, if it is impossible to get service on the old route between Gaspé and Quebec.

With reference to the Magdalen Islands service, the only really useful vessel that has ever been on that service went away early in the war. I think it was: The only vessel which would be got last year for that service was the *Amelia*. The *Amelia* was a serviceable vessel, up to her powers and capabilities, but she did not suit the Magdalen Islands people. She was not the best vessel for that trade, but she was absolutely the only one which was available. She was put on and kept on, and performed that service as well as she possibly could, with a great deal of dissatisfaction, some of which was well founded and perhaps, as is usual, some of which, upon investigation, was found not to be so well founded.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Are these vessels fitted with cold storage?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: No. Then, in reference to the north shore service; that service has had a checkered career ever since I have known anything about it. Probably the best service we had was the year before last and part of last year when the Canada Steamship Company performed the service at a very largely increased subsidy. I think they performed the service to the satisfaction of the people along that coast. But the Canada Steamship Company has gone out of the service. They have no vessels which they can give us, and at the present time the department is making the best search it can in order to provide a vessel for the north shore service. That briefly describes the situation in reference to these three. My hon. friend and colleague the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Bal-lantyne) has kept well up to the traditions of his department. The Department of Trade and Commerce, which subsidized the summer service, always collaborated with the Department of Marine and Fisheries for two or three trips early in the autumn or winter and early in the spring when the ordinary subsidized vessel found it impossible, on account of ice and weather conditions, to make the trip. That is not a new thing. We have always collaborated, and I am quite sure that we will collaborate during the present year. Whether or not my hon. friend will take the *Stanley* and put her permanently on that service or whether the *Princess* can be spared from the service of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, suitable or unsuitable as

she may be, I do not know. That is a matter that is being discussed by the two departments in order to reach a conclusion as to what can be done. But I cannot say anything more to my hon. friend than I have already said, that everything possible will be done to provide some sort of a service. With reference to the north shore service, the people will not be allowed to starve or to suffer for actual necessities. We will preserve them from that without any doubt, and if we can give them a reasonably good service for their products, as well as for necessities in the matter of living, we shall do it. The same applies to the Magdalen service and in a modified degree to the Gaspé service. We shall not even be kept from using the extraordinary powers which the Government has at this time if we can find suitable vessels to get possession of and with which to perform this service. If my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries can come forward with some of his vessels and help out now or in the early spring, and if his department collaborates with us along the north shore, it will lead to a happier result than would be achieved without that co-operation.

Mr. JOSEPH READ (Prince, P.E.I.): What does the Government intend to do with the Northumberland?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I cannot say that. That vessel does not belong to my department, nor, I think, does it belong to the Department of Marine and Fisheries. I am not sure whether it belongs to the Government or not.

Mr. LEMIEUX: To the Department of Railways and Canals.

Mr. READ: Mr. Speaker, this is one of the most important questions that can come before the Parliament of Canada. Of course everybody knows the great difficulty there is in securing tonnage but at the same time if we are going to increase food production it is essential that proper transportation facilities should be obtained. I asked the right hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) what they were going to do with the Northumberland. The Northumberland is a steamer that has been plying between Summerside and Point du Chene in connection with the Intercolonial railway service. That service, as my hon. friend knows, will probably be suspended this coming season because the new car ferry system has been inaugurated between Prince Edward Island and the mainland and the long deferred implementation of the promise of union between the prov-