

communication, and we thought at that time we should before now have the communication improved by the construction of a Railway upon the Island, and of a branch upon the main shore. It so happened that shortly after the Session it was ascertained that the Province of New Brunswick was ready to construct the Railway upon the main shore from Sackville to Cape Tormentine. The fact that they were willing to undertake that work naturally delayed any action on the part of the general Government here. Of course we were quite happy to have that portion of the work taken off our hands and constructed by the Province of New Brunswick, if they would undertake it. A delay of some months occurred before it could be finally settled whether they could do it, or whether it was necessary for us to do it. Finally they undertook it and subsidised a company to construct a Railway, to the extent of \$3000 a mile, and the Railway is now under construction, and 14 or 16 miles have been graded from Sackville, and a certain amount is under contract. Some progress has been made for which we might not be entitled to any credit, but progress has been made which rendered it unnecessary for us to take action as to that part of the communication. Then upon the Island for the twelve miles necessary to complete the communication from the Island Railway to Cape Traverse, a vote was taken for an amount to construct it; but work was not commenced not from any disposition to evade the promise made, but simply because, the railway on the mainland not being completed, there was no use commencing that until they could both be completed together. That the road on the mainland is going on now, is a fact, as I am informed by my hon. friend near me, and that the work on the Island and the mainland will be completed together I hope, and believe there can be no doubt, and by next session my hon. friend will be delighted to find that communication will be very greatly improved. As to communication between those two points a great deal of inquiry has been made, and it does not appear to have been satisfactorily established what kind of communication can be kept up after the Northern Light shall have ceased to be able to run between Pictou and Georgetown. I was told last session that steam

launches would be useful occasionally, and that was mentioned to me by one of the gentlemen of the Railway Department. I understand latterly they have not so considered, and they are disposed to believe now that the present means of communication during a month or two in the winter are the best, and are likely to be the best—perhaps the only communication during a short time in the winter; but during the rest of the season, and during the rest of the year the communication can, of course, be by steamer. Time was lost there in this way, that the present contract for the service between the Island and Shediac, and between the Island and Pictou, was about to expire, and we were very desirous—I was very anxious I know and had the pleasure of having several interviews with the gentlemen who came up here on the subject—we were very anxious that the new contract should include the service for the winter and summer, both between Georgetown and Pictou, and between Capes Traverse and Tormentine, and that it should be placed in the hands of this company because it was an Island company, and being an Island company would naturally feel a keener interest in the matter and exert themselves more strenuously to keep open the communication than a foreign company would. With that object we had certain conversations, and we hoped that the contract would be made with them for the summer and winter service. If we could make such a contract, and have those lines constructed on the mainland and on the Island, then, I think, we should have probably done the best we could have done for that communication.

I by no means belittle the service; far from it. I still think, as I said last session, these communications are all on the same footing and the Government is bound to exert itself as much to maintain them (and more in this case because it was part of the compact with Prince Edward Island) as in any part of Ontario or Quebec, and it is our desire to have it done; only, my hon. friend knows, there are many difficulties and he knows what I am saying now with respect to these Railways will be no doubt fulfilled, they will be finished; and I hope next session he will have that communication in the shape which the members from Prince Edward Island have a perfect right to expect it to be in,