

I could see the president of the Board of Trade, who is one of the deputation, and ascertain more correctly from him what the local situation is, and Mr. Hazard assures me that the money was ready, that it was subscribed on the condition that these cold storage steamers would be got by the government, that a three years' contract should be made, because it would be useless for parties to put up cold storage premises at a great deal of expense if they have a service for only one year, and at the end of the one year it should be withdrawn and their money wasted. Mr. Hazard informs me that notwithstanding all the efforts the Board of Trade have made, from that time to the present they have not been able to secure favourable action from the government. He further informs me and showed me correspondence he had, as president of the Board of Trade, with steamship companies and he assures me there is no difficulty in the way, if there is a will in the matter there is a way. If the hon. Minister of Agriculture has a desire to carry out the promises he made in regard to the matter, then cold storage on steamers can be obtained by the government giving the necessary encouragement. My notice has been on the paper a long while, and I have to complain of my hon. friend that although my notices may stand for some time, when I bring them up he has not got a reply from his colleagues, and I am generally put off with the statement that he is going to mention it, or did mention it and had not got information. This motion has stood quite long enough, and my hon. friend should, when it is brought up, be prepared to discuss it. Very likely he is. I hope, therefore, that he will be able to give me some positive assurance. It is a subject upon which the leading men down there, the agriculturists and the people of the province generally are very much interested, so much so that this deputation has now come to Ottawa with this as one of their objects, and I hope my hon. friend will be able to tell us that the government, if they have not already made these arrangements that they will be prepared to have them ready so that the producers of our province will be put in the position that producers in the other parts of Canada occupy. I think at the present time the Government are providing cold storage on railways, the government having made arrangements with them, and the links are complete from the western-

most parts of the country, and perishable products can be carried from the extremes to these ports and landed into cold storage warehouses in England. They are kept in cold storage from the time they leave the producer until they reach the consumer in the old world. If it is not entirely the case, I hope it will be so soon, and I hope while this is being done in the interests of the producers, as I think it has been as far as the rest of Canada is concerned, that the advantages of it will not be denied to the little province of Prince Edward Island.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Is my hon. friend able to tell us what the proposition made by the Board of Trade is? How often do they want communication and with what points?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I think they would be satisfied with a monthly service. I saw a letter with Mr. Hazard in which a three-weekly service was suggested by the Furness Company. A three-weekly service or a monthly service would be considered sufficient in connection with the cold storage premises.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Between Halifax and Prince Edward Island?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The idea would be to get it direct with the British market—to get a steamer coming from Montreal or Quebec to call, a steamer already furnished with cold storage with a certain amount of space reserved. Of course if that cannot be got, connection with Halifax would be the next best thing, but that would involve transshipment, and I daresay it would involve more expense, because one of those steamers engaged in the coasting trade and freight service between Prince Edward Island and Halifax would then be obliged to have cold storage for that alone, and it might be more expensive than it would be to avail ourselves of the cold storage apparatus that is already in the boats sailing from Montreal and Quebec. Space could be reserved and a call made at Charlottetown once in every three or four weeks.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is no objection to this motion for papers. Many of them I have not seen, some of them, I understand, have been presented to the Department of Agriculture within the last few days. The hon.