

vinces and our operatives would have to learn their business. I say, in this regard, we have suffered immensely for the want of communication up to the present time, and when the time does come there will be a heavy bill for compensation to be settled for the losses sustained by our Province, through the non-fulfilment of the terms of Confederation. Hon. gentlemen may laugh, but all I have to say to these gentlemen is, if my argument does not bear criticism, if I have stated anything that is untrue or misleading, I would like them to say where it is. But I would suggest to them to place themselves in the same position that we in Prince Edward Island occupy. Shut off Nova Scotia from the rest of the Dominion for five months of the year, having only the same access to the other Provinces that we now have in ice-boats across the Straits of Northumberland, and shut out from the rest of the world for seven months of the year, I ask them what their loss would be? I am astonished to hear hon. gentlemen laugh at a proposition of this kind. I think that we, in the Senate, should see that the small Provinces, powerless to help themselves by force of numbers, shall have their terms of union carried out, or that we should be supported in our demands by the Senate of Canada. It is not my intention to say in what way the terms of union shall be carried out. That is a matter, I take it, for the Dominion Government to investigate into the way in which these terms of union can best be carried out. If they can be carried out with a moderate expense—if the Government can fulfil the terms of union by means of navigation, we shall be satisfied. The less cost the better we would be pleased, but we think they must be carried out. We have a right to expect it and must insist upon it. I have no fault to find with the steamer "Stanley," she is an able steamer—an expensive steamer, but I do say that the service she is rendering Prince Edward Island is not equal to the cost of the steamer—that if we can get no better service and no greater good to the Province, it is a pity to see such a steamer being forced through ice when she ought to be very well secured in the harbor. That she is able to do good service for a month later in the fall, and possibly a month earlier in the spring, I do not deny, but to force that fine steamer

through vast fields of ice in winter is a waste of public money, and if it was given to Prince Edward Island for some other purposes, and allow the mails and passengers to be taken across the straits by some other route it would be better than to see it squandered in destroying the "Stanley", as she will be destroyed in a few years if forced across the straits at a time when no such vessel should be forced across.

With these remarks I trust that the House will see the reasonableness of the proposition that has been made to have a thorough investigation instituted by the Government to ascertain in what way the terms of union will be carried out so as to place the people of the Island in the same position that the people of the other Provinces occupy. And to-day that it will endorse the recommendation and the wishes of Earl Granville after hearing the whole question discussed before him when he said :

"The expectations of the Province in regard to the establishment of a constant and efficient communication with the mainland have not been fulfilled."

"There seems to be reason for doubting whether any really satisfactory connection by steamship can be regularly maintained all the year around, which makes it all the more important that the proposed metallic subway should receive a full and, if feasible, favorable consideration on the part of the Government of the Dominion."

"It would reflect great credit on the Dominion Government if after connecting British Columbia with the Eastern Provinces by the Canadian Pacific Railway it should now be able to complete its system of railway communication by an extension to Prince Edward Island."

I may say it would be the crowning glory of the leader of the present Government after completing the union between all the separate Provinces of this Dominion, that he should fulfil its terms to the letter with Prince Edward Island. It would be a direct incentive to Newfoundland to join the Confederacy, which is the only thing wanting to complete the monument to the memory of the present Government and its Chieftain, Sir John A. Macdonald.

HON. MR. POWER—I should like the hon. gentleman, before finally closing, to give the information which I asked for during the course of his speech, and which he thought I had no right to ask, but which seems to me to be very pertinent to the question before the House: That is, whether it was contemplated by any of the parties to the bargain between Prince Edward Island and the Dominion that