

JOINT ADDRESS.

Session of 1881.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable Sir John Douglas Sutherland Campbell (commonly called the Marquis of Lorne), Knight of the most ancient and most noble Order of the Thistle, Knight Grand Cross of the most distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

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We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, in General Assembly convened, approach your Excellency and represent:

1. That upon the 1st day of July 1873, Prince Edward Island entered the Confederation of the Dominion of Canada upon certain terms and conditions set forth in an Order of Her Majesty the Queen in Council, dated 26th June 1873.

2. That in the said terms and conditions of union it was expressly stipulated that the Dominion Government should assume and defray all the charges for the establishment and maintenance of efficient steam service for the conveyance of mails and passengers between this Island and the mainland of the Dominion, winter and summer, so as to place this Island in continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway and the railway system of the Dominion.

3. That during no winter season intervening between the year 1873 and the present time has the steam service provided by the Dominion Government been efficient, or the communication with the mainland in any degree continuous.

4. That during the first winter season after the union no attempt was made by the General Government to provide such steam service; that during the two subsequent winter seasons, viz., those of 1874-75 and 1875-76, a wooden steamboat called the "Albert," was placed upon the route between Georgetown and Pictou, but she failed to perform the service satisfactorily. That at the commencement of the winter season of 1876-77, a new steamer, called the "Northern Light," which had been constructed expressly for the work, was placed upon the route.

5. That the records of the trips made by this steamboat are inaccessible to us, but it is notorious that these trips have been most irregular and unsatisfactory, and that at times she has been detained, ice-bound, for periods ranging from 10 to 24 days, to the imminent danger of the passengers and mails.

On more than one occasion during the present winter, some of the passengers, among whom were several females and children, were forced, after remaining on board the vessel for several days, to leave her and walk a distance of many miles to the shore, when, night overtaking them, they received severe injuries from cold and exposure, and one of them has been crippled for life.

6. That the people of this province have suffered great loss by reason of the frequent interruptions to the winter steam service, involving extraordinary delay not only in the transmission of important letters by mail, but also in the conveyance of passengers, thereby causing serious derangement of trade and immense inconvenience to the entire community.

7. That the experience of the last five years fully convinces us that the steamer "Northern Light" is totally unfitted to perform that efficient service undertaken by the Dominion Government, and as we are of opinion that ample time has been allowed for experiments, we submit that means should be adopted without further delay to secure to this province continuous communication in accordance with the terms of union.

8. That one of the principal inducements held out to this province to enter the Confederation was the promise of constant communication with the mainland, and the prospect of participating in the benefits arising from the Intercolonial Railway and other public works, from which its inhabitants had been previously debarred for a large portion of the year, and to the maintenance of which they are called upon to contribute without deriving any corresponding advantage.

9. We submit that the good faith of the Dominion Government is pledged to the fulfilment of the compact of confederation, involving the establishment and main-