

before he finished, the idea was enlarged to make it a cow park. The late lamented D'Arcy McGee, whose departure from amongst us I have always regarded as a national loss, suggested once in a visit to Prince Edward Island that he thought if the Government would only send a powerful tug down the River St. Lawrence and tow the Island up, and put it in the middle of one of the large lakes where it would be 100 miles from shore it would be a good idea. I almost wish the hon. gentleman from Alberton had the ability to carry out the suggestion, because if it was an island in the midst of Lake Superior it would be within the limit of the good Province of Ontario, and being there anything said in its interest would not so readily, I would almost say so universally, cause a smile when any of the hon. gentlemen from that favored Province undertook to speak of its rights. I would say briefly that there is very great misapprehension in reference to the position of Prince Edward Island in the Confederation. The bond which we have is a public instrument and all are, or ought to be acquainted with it. Hon. gentlemen should bear in mind that Prince Edward Island was courted; she was not the courting body, and that Province consented to become a part of Confederation on condition that daily communication with the mainland would be secured to them throughout the year. That was nearly fifteen years ago, and with the exception of spending a few hundred dollars at Capes Tormentine and Traverse no effort has been made towards establishing that communication since the steamer "*Northern Light*" was placed on that service by the Government of that day. Reference has been made as to how far this subway, if built, would be a provincial affair as benefiting Prince Edward Island. Those of us who know more about the traffic to and from Prince Edward Island and the mainland are able to assert most positively that the majority of those who cross the straits of Northumberland are not residents of the Island. Prince Edward Island is a large and profitable customer of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and it happens in the spring of every year that from 30 to 60 commercial travellers, from Montreal,

Toronto, Hamilton, and other cities of the Western Provinces, are found waiting sometimes two or three weeks for a chance to cross the straits that they may sell their wares and take orders for the manufactures of the upper provinces. In that connection it may not perhaps be out of place to refer to a statement made here the other day in the comparison between the trade of British Columbia and that of Prince Edward Island. It happens unfortunately that there is no authentic record in the public returns of the trade of Prince Edward Island. I think the export trade of the province was placed at a few hundred thousand dollars by the hon. gentleman from New Westminster. In the items of horses and eggs the Province shipped over half a million dollars worth that are not entered in the returns as exports of Prince Edward Island. The Province of Prince Edward Island received from the City of Boston alone in cash, \$250,000 for eggs, and we have exported to the United States over \$200,000 worth of horses; but as they go out entirely through New Brunswick we get no credit for having exported them. So it is with other items produced and shipped by Prince Edward Island, and for which other Provinces get the credit. Prince Edward Island is a large customer of the Upper Provinces. The passenger traffic across the Straits is largely from these older Provinces. We do not go out to buy goods. We remain in our offices, and the representatives of manufacturing and wholesale houses come to us and solicit orders, therefore I say that not one-tenth of the people who cross the Straits are from Prince Edward Island. While during all those years the bond that I have referred to was unfulfilled, we remained quiet. We thought that the Government had undertaken too much—ignorant of the condition of the Straits in the winter season they thought that they could send a steamer down there which could ply regularly and contend with the ice throughout the season. But they have found, as I have already contended, that it is a physical impossibility. With reference to the winter crossing which we have had from time immemorial the Government never did anything towards improving it until the winter before last. A little was