

but because I dare to suggest that the matter might be considered, he says that I am the enemy of the people of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. BOULANGER: He did not say that.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what he said. There is the record of what has been done during the last seven years, not by one government but by successive governments. If the minister had had a clear appreciation of what is involved in this, I am sure he would not have done it. I have crossed to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on the Hochelaga on more than one occasion. I know the situation. That vessel carries very little traffic, and a fourteen mile ferry is a long ferry.

Mr. SINCLAIR: It is in a different section of the province.

Mr. BENNETT: It is at the eastern end. In my judgment a fourteen mile ferry will require a better boat and better facilities if it is going to carry loaded trucks in any number.

I mention these things not in any sense of hostility, but because I believe they should be mentioned in fairness to everyone who desires to understand the situation. This is something that touches the very life of the country. This is one of the difficulties with which we are faced at the present moment. I am not saying for one moment that one government is any different from another; I only say that this is one of the troubles of our institution at the present time.

The hon. member talks about the extent to which Prince Edward Island is used as a tourist resort. The present ferry involved the building of complete terminals at Borden and the construction of a hard-surfaced road to Charlottetown. We have a large investment in the hotel at Charlottetown, upon which we lost a lot of money last year. That is what was done in order that the people might be able to get their traffic to the sea. These people were producers of new wealth agriculturally, but the total population at the present time on the farms of Prince Edward Island is less than 65,000.

Mr. DUPUIS: They deserve to be considered.

Mr. BENNETT: Surely the hon. member does not mean that seriously. They are not only being considered; they are being provided with every facility. What I am saying is that when we ask questions in order to ascertain why the country should be involved in future expenditures, we are charged with a lack of consideration for the people of this province. We know of many people in this country who have to do without the things they would like to have. Prince Edward Is-

[Mr. Bennett.]

land is fairly well to do. In my judgment it is one of the best areas in this country in point of material wealth and in having those things that go to make people happy. It is true it is an island—and I suppose the previous government is responsible for that? It is true that the distance across the Northumberland straits is fairly long—and I suppose the late government is to blame for that?

I have stated the practice in Australia and what would be done there in a case similar to this. I know that in many cases, although provision had been made in the estimates for certain works, they declined to proceed with them after the committee had visited the spot and heard the evidence of engineers and others, on the ground that the expenditure could not be justified under the conditions existing or as being necessary for the peace, happiness and prosperity of the people. There are many things the people in the west would like to have; there are many things the people in the east would like to have; but we cannot have everything.

I suggest that the minister has given no adequate explanation why we should embark on this enterprise at this time, especially in view of the fresh knowledge we have obtained. There is a variance between himself and the hon. member representing that district as to how this thing is to be carried on. The Hochelaga is to lose its subsidy, and that news will be received with glee. That subsidy is to be transferred to this new private enterprise, the details of which we do not know as yet. However, I have no doubt in due season we will know if we faint not.

Mr. CARDIN: Mr. Chairman, I hope the right hon. leader of the opposition does not think I attributed any motives to him because of the observations he made. It is not very often a Minister of Public Works is placed in the position in which I find myself in connection with this item. It is not very often, when proposing an expenditure in the house, that one can support the item with a resolution of the government of the province where the expenditure is to be made.

Mr. BENNETT: Does the minister know of any time that he could not?

Mr. CARDIN: In the present case we have representations by the legislature of Prince Edward Island. I have under my hand a long resolution which very strongly requests the federal government to undertake that expenditure, and establishes, at least from their point of view, that it would be very beneficial.

Mr. BENNETT: Are they contributing?