

From New Orleans to Liverpool, 4,600 miles.

From Quebec to Liverpool, via the Straits of Belle Isle, 2,650 miles.

From Montreal to Liverpool, via Georgetown, 2,278 miles—the shortest route across the ocean by over 250 miles.

Now, with regard to fog. Anyone acquainted with the Straits of Belle Isle and the Gulf of St. Lawrence will remember on the Labrador—the Canadian side—of the Straits you have almost a perpendicular barrier of rock, while on the westerly side you have a less formidable coast. The prevailing winds throw the fog against that barrier on the Canadian side, and in making a passage by way of the Straits of Belle Isle the watchman on the outlook is very anxious to make the lighthouse on the eastern point of Anticosti. It must be made in order to get to Gaspé. All the difficulties to navigation in the Gulf have arisen inside the Straits of Belle Isle. If you take the Newfoundland side you have clear water free of fog, and instead of running at the rate of ten miles an hour, vessels could be run at full speed from that point to Georgetown. There is nothing to interrupt them and they could disembark their passengers, and the mails could be forwarded to points west of Quebec 24 hours sooner than by any existing route. That is the reason why I say, in my judgment, the gentlemen who represent the western portions of Canada have as much interest in the construction of this subway as we have ourselves. Because, after all, the Province of Prince Edward Island is Canada, and if nature had made a connection between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick there is not a doubt where the transatlantic steamers would make their western terminus during the summer season.

The Allan line of steamers, which runs to Montreal *via* the Straits of Belle Isle, as I am informed, discontinue their trips after the end of October; whilst they could run to Georgetown much longer. The straits could be navigated up to the first of January. The gulf, the straits and the harbor of Georgetown are entirely free of ice up to that time, and this short route would therefore be

open for about eight months in the year.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Are there no fogs hanging around Georgetown?

HON. MR. HOWLAN—Fog is almost unknown around Prince Edward Island. We have no such fog as is found in the Bay of Fundy and on the Atlantic coast. Fog is a very rare occurrence anywhere around Prince Edward Island. I think that the hon. gentleman will find that statement borne out by others who have as much, perhaps more information on this question than I have. In a certain place, which cannot be mentioned here, my name has been bandied around in regard to a certain letter which was given to me by the Leader of the Government of this country—Sir John Macdonald. It was asserted there that this letter was sent to me for electioneering purposes. I think I will be able to satisfy the House that as far back as March 1885 (when surely there could have been no expectation of an election taking place in Prince Edward Island) I asked this House to petition the Government to cause a survey to be made of the Straits of Northumberland with a view to ascertaining the feasibility of constructing this subway, and gentlemen from the Maritime Provinces irrespective of party bias, thought that it was a matter which ought to be examined, and that it would be necessary to spend some little money for the purpose of making the examination. The following is a copy of the petition, which is dated the 20th April 1885:—

OTTAWA, April 20th, 1885.

*To the Right Honorable Sir John Macdonald, G.C.B., Premier of Canada, &c.*

The undersigned members of the Senate and House of Commons from the Maritime Provinces, having examined a model and plan of a Subway across the Straits of Northumberland, as well as having read the Debate thereon in the Senate,

Respectfully request that the sum of Five Thousand Dollars be appropriated for a practical survey of said Straits, with a view of testing the feasibility of building such Subway.

We have the honor to be,  
Very respectfully,

(Signed)