

Prince Edward Island, but gradually difficulties arose so that we could not get them there because we could not get transportation the year around. The consequence was we had to go to New Brunswick for our potatoes, and will you allow me to tell you that to-day and the whole year round, there are hundreds of carloads going from New Brunswick to Toronto which are sold there every day for 10 cents a bushel more than the potatoes grown right around Toronto.

Mr. EMMERSON. They are worth it.

Mr. A. A. WRIGHT. Certainly; if not, we would not give 10 cents a bushel more for them. I do not know whether they have better facilities or give greater care, but they give us better potatoes and all of one quality. If you want to get a carload of any one kind, you can go to New Brunswick and get them. We cannot get them from the island because they have not the facilities for shipping them. I need only give you that one instance to show you that we are directly connected with the maritime provinces. I have listened many years to the complaints made by our friends from the island, and it seems to me that the Dominion government has done everything it could under the circumstances to carry out the compact made with the provinces. The difficulties to be contended with in going across the straits in winter are simply enormous, and no human skill apparently can overcome them. I am willing to bear my share, as far as Ontario is concerned, in giving these people every facility winter and summer to get to the outside world. I have thoroughly considered this tunnel question. One hon. gentleman, when he spoke to me with reference to my advocating the building of the tunnel some time ago, said I did not know what I was talking about and had no business to say anything on the subject. Well, I consider it a national question and I have as good a right to speak on it as any other person in the country. I believe that this government has been doing everything it could; but if our friends in the island are in difficulty and we can relieve them, I do not see why we should not do it. When Prince Edward Island came into confederation and took her seat around our national fireside, she became part of our national family, and if she is in distress it is our business to come to her relief. When a fire took place in Hull we gave liberally to help the sufferers; and this year, when our friends in the western provinces were in trouble about seed grain, we voted \$2,000,000 to help them. If then the people in Prince Edward Island are in difficulty why should we not help them in like manner? It may be that the building of this tunnel is not written in the bond, but I care not. If it is necessary, why should we not build it? And I do not think the cost would be prohibitive. Take the cost of the Simplon tunnel under the Alps, where they encountered a lake of hot

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water. Nevertheless they built it and without enormous cost, and I am satisfied that with modern appliances this tunnel can be built without very much expenditure of money. If it can be built for \$10,000,000, I am prepared to pay my share of the amount, but I am thoroughly convinced it will never cost anything like that. The only way is to face the difficulty like men. Let us see what the tunnel will cost; and if not too much, we should grapple with it at once and put an end to all this clatter we hear every year. I am sick and tired of it, and if anything can be done to relieve the House of it I for one am satisfied to do it.

Mr. J. BARR (Dufferin). I cannot agree with my hon. friend when he says that this government has done all it can to relieve the situation of Prince Edward Island and carry out the compact of confederation. On looking through the record, I cannot find anything substantial that they have done. I cannot find any reliable report in connection with this tunnel. Having agreed to give Prince Edward Island continuous communication with the mainland in return for her joining confederation, it was the duty of this government and of preceding governments to have had a thorough investigation into the matter and have laid before the House plans and specifications so that the country might know exactly what it would cost to carry out the compact of confederation. It seems to me that Prince Edward Island has just reason to complain that an honest effort has not been made by either this or previous governments to carry out the terms of confederation. It is true that steps along that line were taken by the late government and an estimate was prepared. That estimate I think was about \$10,000,000. If it cost twice that amount, it would be worth it to the Dominion and particularly to Prince Edward Island. As a people, as a nation, we should fulfil our obligations to the different provinces. As the last speaker said, it is not a provincial but a national question and one which this House and this country must solve if it is practicable. We have not before us the data to enable us to say whether it is practicable or not, but we can say that it is the duty of the government to secure estimates and all possible information from the best engineers obtainable.

I do not think any relief will come from changing the name of the Intercolonial Railway. From all we can gather it would seem that there has been discrimination and I hope the new Minister of Railways will see that even if the tunnel is not built the service will be improved and rendered as efficient as possible. Such a policy will meet with general approval and so I think would the building of a tunnel as soon as that is practicable.

Hon. G. P. GRAHAM (Minister of Railways and Canals). The discussion on the