

province boats because they are necessary, but I think the government should look into the question as to whether the work is really for the general advantage of Canada. I think personally that the provinces should contribute something to it. This service is a necessity; it is not by any means a luxury; and if these subsidies are necessary in some of the provinces then undoubtedly the principle should be extended to Ontario and the Great Lakes as well. There are many towns on the north shore of lake Ontario and in central Ontario on the lakes which are dead simply because of the lack of transportation facilities. A few years ago they had a steamboat service but they were unable to continue. Boats used to cross lake Erie, lake Ontario and the Georgian bay to international ports and as well to various ports on the Great Lakes within our own border. But this service has been cut off, with a result that many towns have declined in population. I am not urging that there be any curtailment in respect of the Maritime provinces, but I think that the whole policy of cash grants to those provinces should be extended to the provinces of central Canada, especially for the benefit of those small towns along the Great Lakes that are now suffering because of the lack of water-borne facilities. Take Picton, in Prince Edward county, for example; this used to be a large steamboat town but this winter not a single ship wintered there. Because of lack of transportation facilities the farmers of Halton—Mr. Drury's own constituency—cannot get their crops to market. I am surprised my hon. friends of the Progressive party from the province of Ontario are not standing up and asking for equality of treatment for their province. No part of the Dominion is suffering so much from rural depopulation to-day as is the province of Ontario. Therefore I am urging on the government the extension of this policy to the other cities and towns on the Great Lakes. In the United States from Buffalo all the way down to Toledo and Detroit every community is served by water transportation, and I think we should adopt the same principle and extend it to the head of the lakes.

Mr. MacLAREN: Do not these services carry mails?

Mr. ROBB: The subsidized services.

Mr. MARTELL: This item is for a subsidy for boats carrying mails and general supplies from New Brunswick to Nova Scotia. Therefore it is in the interests of interprovincial trade, and I cannot see how the

remarks of the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Church) are applicable, much as I appreciate him. When my hon. friend asserts that the great province of Ontario is entitled to the same consideration as the Maritime provinces, I have no dispute with him; but if the people of the Maritimes, particularly the people of Nova Scotia, are to carry on trade they must of necessity get federal assistance.

Mr. CHURCH: If my hon. friend thinks I am objecting to this vote he is mistaken.

Mr. MARTELL: I am not saying that my hon. friend is objecting—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. MARTELL: I am only making a plea from the standpoint of Nova Scotia, and in spite of all the cries of "carried" I will not be forced to take my seat until the Chairman declares me out of order. The other day an associate of my hon. friend's party in Nova Scotia—and I have no fault to find with that party, except to say that I disagree with its members and think they are usually wrong—moved in the legislature that Nova Scotia should secede from the Dominion. There are many people in the province who hold that view. The premier in moving an amendment said, "We are not anxious to secede, but we do demand lower tariffs, lower freight rates and greater facilities for trade." That is the platform on which I stand, and I want to tell the hon. member for Toronto (Mr. Church), whom I regard as a great personal friend, that if that secession feeling is not to grow to an alarming extent we must of necessity get our just demands in Nova Scotia. I believe the object of these subsidies is to encourage interprovincial trade, at least in the Maritime provinces. Nova Scotia suffered by confederation more than any other province, and Ontario profited most; and as far as I am concerned, whether my political life be long or short, I shall raise my voice at all times and on all occasions to demand that proper treatment be accorded to Nova Scotia—that we be given lower tariffs, lower freight rates and the best possible terms that can be secured for any province under confederation.

Mr. STEVENS: I rise to correct my hon. friend for Hants (Mr. Martell) in the statement he made; it would not be right to let it go unchallenged. We had been patiently letting these items pass when he interjected his inaccurate observations. He stated that these were subventions for the promotion of interprovincial trade. Some of them are; most