

the service, the boats would be there to carry mails and passengers. It is thought to be a very feasible route. I have understood that one object of the Bill is to endeavour to perform this service, but any one acquainted with it knows that it is impossible for any company to perform the work. It is a work requiring a large outlay and it is a risky undertaking. There would require to be an expensive pier built, and no company would undertake the work. That must be done by the government and the government alone. For this, and many other reasons the people of Prince Edward Island do not feel that this work should be taken hold of by any but the government. Hon. gentlemen may ask: 'Why not let the company go on? If they do not perform the service no harm will be done.' But the harm will be done in this way, if the company incorporated to do the work makes a beginning, even if the beginning be very small, and let it stand, they could say to the government: 'You have given us this charter and we have started to perform the service, and we do not think you should come in and do the work we are going to do.' Of course, the people of Prince Edward Island look to the government to see that this service is properly carried out. The service has been improved and we look for further improvement. We hope that as each year passes, the government will improve the service and make it better than they have ever given before. Hon. gentlemen who are living on the mainland, who have the advantage of the same communication summer and winter, can scarcely realize what a disadvantage it is to live on an island where we are surrounded by ice, perhaps half or one-third of the year at least. They can scarcely understand the great disadvantages which we labour under, and therefore I will ask them to take this matter into consideration, and not to treat this subject as they would dealing with the other provinces. This is perhaps the most important thing which Prince Edward Island has to deal with. In summer we can get along very well, while navigation is open. We have the steamers, and they render good service, but it is very different in winter. We in Prince Edward Island are strongly opposed to interference on the part of any com-

pany. We do not want a company to pretend to do the work which should be performed by the government. I do not wish to say one disrespectful word in regard to the gentlemen whose names are mentioned in the Act of Incorporation. They are respectable men so far as I know. One of them is an hon. member of this House. I do not think there is any one of them who would like to put any money into this project, and of course, this work requires a large outlay. I should be glad to hear an explanation from my hon. friend from Smith's Falls. I do not wish to interfere with the Bill in any way, except in so far as it applies to the service between the mainland and Prince Edward Island.

Hon. Mr. FROST—I might just say in explanation that I am not the promoter of the Bill. My name only stands on the Bill at the request of a friend in the House of Commons. I have no interest in the Bill further than that. I am sorry to be found in opposition to my hon. friend who has just resumed his seat, a gentleman for whom I have the very highest regard and respect. I did not know, until I heard his explanation, that this company was going to conflict so very seriously with the service already in operation between the mainland and the island. Therefore, hon. gentlemen will kindly understand what my position is in regard to this Bill which stands in my name.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think we all fully appreciate the difficulties Prince Edward Island labours under during the winter season, and the obstacles which interfere with rapid transit between the mainland and the island. Both the present government and the government which preceded it, have made pretty active efforts to keep the navigation open, but even with modern appliances they found themselves unequal to cope with the difficulties which prevailed last winter. I do not think my hon. friend need fear that the incorporation of this company is in any way going to disturb existing arrangements. It is a very serious undertaking, and unless they are prepared to offer something very much better than is afforded now, it is not at all possible that any serious progress will be made. We are accustomed to find companies incorporated here from time to time, and incorpor-