

built the crossing would be nothing more than a ferry. During the past winter the *Northern Light* was out in the ice for some two or three weeks at one time. This is a matter which affects the whole Dominion. In the winter between six and seven hundred passengers cross the straits. I hope the Government will take a trip down there some time and see the inconvenience that we experience in crossing there; it is like taking one's life in his hand.

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL — I should like to know the name of the boat at Quebec which the hon. gentleman thinks would be a model steamer.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY — The boat which carries railway passengers from Point Levis to Quebec. The *Northern Light* draws too much water and enters into the ice like a wedge. A boat like the Newfoundland sealing vessels, which would run up on the ice and break it, would be much better than the *Northern Light*.

Hon. Mr. CARVELL — I think, notwithstanding the not very favorable answer which the leader of the Government has given to my hon. friend's inquiry, this is an important matter and the Government of the day have held out a hope that early action will be taken to establish communication by way of Capes Tormentine and Traverse. Inquiries have been made as to whether the people living along the route which would have to be taken for the branch railways would be willing to give right of way for the purpose, and those on the mainland, where they have municipal institutions, have consented, I believe, to do so. The passage of the Straits is as important to the other provinces of the Dominion as to Prince Edward Island. I venture to say there are more residents of Toronto or of Montreal than of Prince Edward Island using that route, and it is not a merely local work. But above and beyond this, there is a distinct contract which binds the Government to keep up daily communication across the Straits, and I hope that next year, at all events, the Government will be prepared to take some active measures to fulfil that contract.

*Hon. Mr. Montgomery.*

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL — There was no contract or pledge that a road would be built to Cape Tormentine. The contract was to keep up communication by steam, which we supposed we were doing by means of the *Northern Light*, and which we shall try to do with some other steamer.

Hon. Mr. CARVELL — I do not think that putting a steamer there is a fulfilment of the contract that was entered into. Building the branch roads is the only possible means of keeping up the daily communication by steam promised when we entered the Union.

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL — It was thought by everybody that we had accomplished it by means of the *Northern Light*. She was built for the purpose, but has proved a failure, and we must now find a better steamer, such as my hon. friend (Mr. Montgomery) has suggested, to make the passage.

Hon. Mr. GIRARD — I wish to know what provision has been made to enable Manitoba to administer provincial affairs within its new boundaries. I know the Government is well disposed towards the Province, but the present subsidy is not enough to meet the increased expenditure and responsibilities. I must, at the same time, express my gratification at the ample provision that has been made for the early construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It will give Manitoba an opportunity to develop its resources, and become ere long one of the leading provinces of the Dominion. I wish to express my thanks to the Government for the appropriation they have made in recognition of the services done by the St. Boniface Hospital in caring for persons who have been wounded or sick while working on the Pacific Railway. I wish also to ask the hon. Postmaster General if he can give me some explanation as to the financial future of the Province of Manitoba.

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL — I can give the hon. gentleman some satisfactory information I am sure, because I have been busy this morning in making a note for a despatch to be addressed to the Government of Manitoba on the subject, in answer to representations that