

House, when the facts are thoroughly understood, to bring such a pressure upon the Government as will induce them to do justice. I believe the representatives from the island are prepared at all times to press this matter upon the attention of the Government, and the only person to blame is the gentleman who has charge of the Marine and Fisheries Department, and the Government of which he is a member. Why, Sir, I remember a few years ago, before this Government came into power, that not a Session passed in this House but the supporters of the present Government took every occasion to denounce the manner in which that service was then being carried out, to decry and to denounce the *Northern Light*, the boat employed by the Mackenzie Government to perform the service, and promised that if they came into power they would remedy these grievances and put on a better and a stronger boat. Sir, they came into power in the year 1878, and that boat that they then denounced has remained in the service from that day to this. Hon. members will understand that beating, as she has, against icebergs and cakes of ice, year in and year out, she is not improved at the end of eight years; and those gentlemen, after all the promises they made before coming into power, stand to-day convicted of the fact that the state of things which they denounced and decied in 1876-77-78 has been getting every year worse and worse, and still they have taken no steps to better it, so far as the *Northern Light* is concerned. But, Sir, those gentlemen from Prince Edward Island went to England, and they laid this matter at the foot of the Throne, and we had a return brought down yesterday, in answer to an Address moved for by the hon. member for King's. I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to the fact that this return contained a despatch from Lord Granville to His Excellency the Governor General, and it contains a memorial submitted by the delegates who went to England to see Lord Granville in support to the petition of the Prince Edward Island Legislature. It is a very lengthy document, and the return contains a rejoinder from Sir Charles Tupper to that memorial, but it does not contain the document which was referred to throughout the return, and that is, the minute of Council presented by this Government in answer to the petition of the Prince Edward Island Legislature. I call the attention of my hon. friend to that, and I ask him, without a formal notice being given—because it would be impossible to reach it for some time—that he bring down that memorial, and I hope he will see his way clear to do it. Well, Sir, what does Lord Granville say in reply to their application:

"I duly received your Lordship's despatch of the 19th November last, enclosing an approved report of a committee of the Privy Council for Canada, forwarding, with other papers, a joint address to the Queen from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island. This address prays that Her Majesty will require that justice be done by the Government of Canada to Her Majesty's loyal subjects of that Province, by the immediate establishment and maintenance of efficient steam service for the conveyance of mails and passengers between this island and the mainland of the Dominion, both winter and summer, so as to place the island in continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway and the railway system of the Dominion; and further, that Her Majesty would be pleased to require that the Government of Canada should compensate the island for the loss which it is alleged has resulted to its inhabitants by reason of the non-fulfilment of the terms of Confederation in the particulars complained of in the address. I also received your despatch of the 30th of January with the farther report of a committee of the Privy Council on the subject of the delegation appointed to support the prayer of the address."

That is the document that I hope the hon. gentleman will bring down; it is not among these papers.

"Since the receipt of these papers I have had the pleasure of receiving Mr. Sullivan, the Premier and Attorney-General, and Mr. Ferguson, the Provincial Secretary of Prince Edward Island, who had been appointed as delegates to Her Majesty's Government, and on the 24th of last month they attended her by appointment, and favored me with a general statement of the circumstances under which the Legislature of Prince Edward Island had addressed the Queen. I explained to them that the Queen had no power either by Statute or otherwise, under the

constitution of Canada, to give any directions in this matter, and that, therefore, I should not be able to advise Her Majesty (who had been pleased to receive the address very graciously) to take any action upon it, but that it would give me much satisfaction if, by the exercise of any friendly offices which I could tender, I should be able to contribute to the settlement of a question in which the Provincial Government were so much interested. I added that I had confidence in the kindly spirit in which the matter at issue would be dealt with on both sides, and this led me to hope that some acceptable arrangement might be come to."

Then he goes on to say:

"I then gave the delegates a copy of the report of the Privy Council of Canada, dated the 7th of November last, which they had not previously received."

Now, from that, it appears that the Prince Edward Island Government need not expect to have much assistance from Her Majesty's Government, because it is stated very clearly by Lord Granville that it does not come within his province to compel the Dominion to carry out the terms of the union. This is the proper place to bring up the grievance. This Government have the power to remedy it, and they have not done so. Now, in the year 1883 a commission was appointed by this House to take evidence upon this matter and make a report. Well, that commission made a report, and among other things they reported in favor of improving the service at the Capes by building better boats, stations for observation, a signal service, and boathouses on both sides. Notwithstanding that, and notwithstanding the carrying out of those recommendations, would cost only a few thousand dollars, and notwithstanding the promise made by the Ministry of the day that those recommendations would be carried, 1883, 1884 and 1885 went by, and it was not until members of Parliament were on their way to Ottawa in the middle of winter, with the thermometer nearly 25 degrees below zero, that we found men digging through the ice, trying to make foundations for the boathouses. It was ridiculous, and it was an insult to members that the foundation should be attempted to be laid in the middle of winter and that men should be digging through ice three or four feet deep. The boat-houses are, however, done at last, and some small measure of justice has at length been done to our people. So far as regards that recommendation in regard to boat-houses it is now complied with, and I may say personally that I think they are very nice houses. I crossed this winter much better than for years in this respect; the boats were clean and nice, and so far as I was concerned I had nothing of which to complain in the arrangement. I am aware that some of the members and passengers contend that the charges are too high. I think they are too high. It is well known that some members of Parliament have to carry a large quantity of baggage, for which they are called upon to pay. But that is a small matter, and it can, no doubt, be rectified by the Department without bringing it before the House. Another and the most important recommendation made was that in regard to the steam service to be performed. The House is aware, from the repeated statements made here, that during three or four weeks of every year it is found impossible to carry on steam service. For those three or four weeks we must always, until we build the tunnel or subway, be obliged to cross by open boat service. I am not complaining of the existing service; I am complaining of the improper delay, the inexcusable delay, which has taken place in putting the service in anything like proper order. What has been done in regard to the steam service? Our harbors freeze up some time before Christmas, and just at the very time when our people are anxious to export their produce and take advantage, perhaps, of a rise in the market, the steamboats are stopped, and our people cannot export anything. My colleague has called attention to the condition of the *Northern Light*—it was not intended for a freight boat—and we hoped, and we had a right to indulge in the hope, from the expressions of Ministers, that the Government would put an improved boat on that ser-