

It is not a pleasant duty for a man to have to urge this grievance Session after Session, or that I should be taking up the time of the House, almost repeating the same thing year after year, and I am sure that it is not pleasant for you to have to listen to it. It is here we have a right to come; the Senate was constituted as a guarantee that the rights of the smaller Provinces should be protected, and we have a right at any rate to ask for an investigation into this matter, and if the Straits of Northumberland cannot be tunneled for what may be called a practical sum, let some other course be taken to set the matter at rest; because there is in the minds of the people of Prince Edward Island a belief that this thing can be done, and that belief is supported by the opinions of gentlemen who are eminent as engineers. I am satisfied that if the Government felt that five millions of dollars would do this work they would take it up with confidence, but they have not investigated it. In England there is attached to the Imperial Parliament a Bureau of Engineers, and before you get a Bill through that Parliament you have to submit your scheme to them, and then when it comes before the Legislature the members have an estimate of the cost and a guarantee from an engineering standpoint that the work is feasible, practical and safe. In the United States they have also a bureau of experts, to whom such matters are submitted, but here every man is his own engineer. I do not ask this House to take my opinion as an engineer. I am not one, but I must have respect for the opinion of Walter Shanly, who has been an engineer all his life, and who successfully completed one of the greatest works on this continent—the Hoosac tunnel. If such an eminent engineer tells me that this scheme is feasible, surely I must believe him. I do hope the Government will see their way clear to sending the matter to a commission of engineers such as I have named, so that we may have an official report with regard to the practicability of doing this work. I am sorry to have trespassed on the time of the House so long. I am much obliged to the hon. gentlemen for hearing me so patiently, after bringing this matter so frequently before the House, but while I am here as the representative of Prince Edward Island my duty is to present the views of the people of that Province in a matter of so much importance.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I do not rise to oppose the motion before the House, and I must say that the hon. gentleman has made great progress in this matter since he took it up. When he first approached this scheme, and showed us a model of his tunnel, everybody looked upon the scheme as visionary—in fact, even the members from Prince Edward Island looked upon it as impracticable, and gave very little attention to it. I do not think my hon. friend in his motion to-day is going far enough. The motion should not be only to ascertain the cost of this project, but its durability and its freedom from destruction or injury from any reasonable cause. I think that should be also included in the motion. And as far as that goes I should be in favor of it. The hon. gentleman has almost stood alone in this matter from the beginning. I know the hon. gentleman from Charlottetown (Mr. Haythorne) did not give it his full support, for my recollection of what he said was, that it would tend to detract from the efforts now being made to have more efficient steamboat communication with the mainland. My hon. friend says that when the “Northern Light” was found to be not altogether suitable another boat was put on, and was got largely upon the advocacy of all the hon. gentlemen from Prince Edward Island. The hon. member from Alberton struggled here to a large extent alone for a long time, but my friend at the head of the room has been gradually giving him aid in this matter. What he has done outside I do not know. We are told that because the representatives of Prince Edward Island in another branch of the Legislature have not been in harmony with the Government, therefore they have not had the weight and influence which they should have possessed; but I cannot see that they have ever put forth any efforts in the direction of asking for an appropriation to make an enquiry into the best means of establishing winter communication between the Island and the mainland. Therefore, I think my hon. friend has not been treated fairly. It strikes me as singular, if they considered this scheme feasible and desirable in the interests of the Island, that they would not ask for an appropriation to make the enquiry that has been suggested. The question arises whether, if this is granted, the terms of Confederation will have been