

people much longer to suffer the present inconvenience; in fact, we are no better off now than when we entered Confederation. In connection with this, I must say that whatever favors the Island received from the Liberal Administration, for the last four years at least, no attempt whatever has been made to improve the service of the *Northern Light*. I am sure that the House must have been surprised to learn from the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat that the *Northern Light* was built for the St. Lawrence River. This is the first time I have heard of it. There are one or two gentlemen from the Island in this House who were here in the spring of 1876, and they will remember that that boat was built expressly for the Island. The model was approved by the members who were then in this House. She was built expressly for the service in which she was then engaged. I quite agree with the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies) who spoke first on the Opposition side of the House. I think it would be useless at this stage to ask for a committee of enquiry. A committee of enquiry can only result in further delay, and we do not want any further delay. What we want now is the immediate construction of the branches, and the immediate construction of two boats to take the place of the *Northern Light*, as she is getting old and worm-eaten, and will not be able to drag out more than a year or two more. I am surprised that any hon. gentleman from Prince Edward Island can come to this House and approve of the National Policy with the present condition of the Island staring him in the face. We were never in a worse condition, within our recollection or within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, than we are just now. A great deal of the misery and poverty we now suffer, and the exodus of our young men, are due to that policy. Emigration has never been so large as it has been this last fall and summer. There is nothing on the Island for the people to do. I think that the motion of the hon. member for Queen's (P. E. I.) is scarcely sufficient, and I therefore beg leave to move the following amendment:—

That the following words be added at the end of the said motion:—
"also copies of all instructions issued to the Agent of the Marine and Fisheries Department at Prince Edward Island, relating to the running of the *Northern Light* during the present season, and all correspondence on that subject."

Mr. HACKETT. The question referred to in the motion of the hon. member for Queen's is one of very great importance to Prince Edward Island. It is not a new question; it has been discussed by Parliament, within my knowledge, every Session for the last four years, and the representatives of the Island have availed themselves of every opportunity to have it fully discussed. At the time of Confederation great inducements were held out to the Island to enter into the Union, tempting offers were made, but they were all rejected by the people for the simple fact that owing to our isolated position and our being shut off from the mainland during four months of the year, it would be quite impossible to consummate the Union. They said it was impossible to expect that we on the Island, having to contribute large sums for the construction of public works on the mainland, could enter the Canadian Confederation unless the Island was placed in continuous communication with the mainland. To meet their views on this question the following clause was inserted in the Terms of the Union. I will read it to show there is no reservation whatever in the clause:

"Efficient steam service for the conveyance of mails and passengers to be established and maintained between the Island and the mainland of the Dominion, winter and summer, thus placing the Island in continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway and the railway system of the Dominion."

I want to show how this has been carried out. The service may be divided into two branches, the summer and winter service. The same boats are running in summer as were running in 1873 at the time of the Union—there has been no improvement at all. I believe the subsidy has been

increased, but there has been no improvement in the means of communication. The services are performed by an Island company, and I do not want to say a word in disparagement of the company; they have performed the work to the best of their ability, their boats are well manned and the officers are obliging and courteous; but the trade has overgrown the accommodation provided by the company during the last four years the National Policy has been in force. The result has been, as was predicted by hon. gentlemen at present occupying the Treasury benches, that there has been an increased volume of trade in the Province. I am very happy to state that such has been the result with respect to Prince Edward Island; the volume of trade has increased immensely during the time the National Policy has been in force, and in consequence of that increased trade the Government should be called upon to afford additional facilities for the purpose of carrying on that trade. We, in Prince Edward Island, are not in a position to embark to any great extent in manufactures; we are an agricultural people; but we are benefiting by the growth of manufactures in other Provinces—by the erection of sugar refineries at Moncton, Halifax, and other centres, and of cotton factories at Moncton, St. John and elsewhere—and it will doubtless be the policy of the Government, in carrying out the system of protection and fostering the manufactures of the country, to afford the agriculturists of Prince Edward Island facilities to develop in like manner and allow them the means of taking advantage of the markets created by the National Policy. The hon. member for King's (Mr. McIntyre) has spoken of great poverty existing on the Island at the present time. It has always been the case that Grits have proclaimed poverty, disaster and ruin, but I am somewhat surprised that my hon. friend coming from Prince Edward Island should have proclaimed the opinion that the people of the Island are in want and misery. Such is not the fact. Let me show what has been the result of the National Policy in the county I represent. In 1878 the exports from the port of Summerside in Prince County to other ports of the Dominion, not foreign exports, amounted in value to \$136,940. In 1882 the value had increased to the enormous sum of \$466,415, or an advance of 300 per cent.

Mr. DAVIES. Of what did the exports consist?

Mr. HACKETT. I am very happy to inform the hon. gentleman that they consisted largely of the agricultural produce of Prince County. In 1878 when we were unable to sell those products in the neighboring Provinces we were obliged to seek a foreign market, but now we are able to sell them in Moncton, St. John, Halifax and other rising towns in the neighboring Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and are not obliged to seek a market abroad. Without dealing at greater length with this branch of the subject I may state, in relation to the Port of Summerside that being in Prince County and contiguous to the neighboring Province it will be the port from which this trade will be carried on, and I hope, from the fact that there is a good harbor at Summerside, and that the railway runs down to the water, and that there is a good harbor at Point Duchene in the other Province, and that the Intercolonial runs down there, the Government will place on that route better means of communication than at present exist. Those boats, while suitable for the service eight or ten years ago, are not adapted for the present trade. We want better boats. It has been stated that freight was lying on the wharf. The people have been unable to obtain facilities for transport, and the consequence has been great loss to them. Although I do not want to say anything disparaging to the Island Navigation Company, it must be remembered that the interests of the whole people are greater than those of a private company, and I hope before another year has