

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I understood they expected to be able to have a steamer on the route during the present season.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The hon. gentleman is, perhaps, better acquainted with the locality than I am, but I think that a considerable section of that railway is still uncompleted. I believe the railway has made its way to within sixty or seventy miles of the point in Newfoundland opposite Cape Breton.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It possibly may not be completed.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I believe some contract has been entered into when the railway has been completed; but until that, I hardly think we are in a position to ask for a vote.

Steam service between Victoria and San Francisco \$5,000

Mr. HAGGART. There seems to be a decrease of \$5,000 here. If I remember rightly, there was an arrangement between British Columbia and the Dominion, that that service should be kept up. What is the cause of the decrease?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. One year there was some difficulty with the contractors, and they did the service, but the sum was not paid. The subsidy is only \$5,000 a year, but in last year's Estimates it was voted for two years.

Steam communication during the season of 1897, i.e., from the opening to the closing of navigation, between Baddeck, Grand Narrows and Iona daily; between Port Mulgrave and St. Peter's; between Grand Narrows, East Bay and Irish Cove..... \$7,000

Mr. GILLIES. By what company is the service to be performed, and under what conditions as to running?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The Bras d'Or Steam Navigation Company, and they have three steamers employed.

Mr. GILLIES. I notice a discrepancy between this item, as set forth in the Estimates, and the item formerly put in the Estimates. It used to read formerly, "Steam communication during the season, from the opening to the closing of navigation, between Baddeck, Grand Narrows and Iona, daily; between Port Mulgrave and St. Peter's, and to East Bay and Irish Cove."

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Between Grand Narrows, it is now.

Mr. GILLIES. That will not do at all. The great object of this service is to have direct communication between Port Mulgrave and the Bras d'Or Lake in a direct line; but here the service stops short at St. Peters, and the other portions of the Bras d'Or Lake get their communication

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

from Grand Narrows. I want the Minister to change the reading, to make it read: "Between Port Mulgrave and St. Peters, thence to Irish Cove and Grand Narrows, and then back to St. Peters and Port Mulgrave."

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I candidly confess that I am not as well up in the geography of the Bras d'Or as I would wish to be; and if the hon. gentleman has any fault to find with the way this is arranged, and if it is not in accordance with the terms of the contract, I will cause investigation to be made; but this is verbatim et literatim as it was in the Estimates of 1896-97.

Mr. GILLIES. But it was changed in the contract.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. As I understand, the contract has not been changed.

Mr. GILLIES. I want the service continued in the future as it has been in the past, namely, between Port Mulgrave and St. Peters, thence to Irish Cove and Grand Narrows, and back to St. Peters and Port Mulgrave. East Bay has connection with Grand Narrows by the boat from Grand Narrows. As the item reads here, the people at Irish Cove and the large surrounding districts on the front and rear would only have connection with the Grand Narrows; but the object of the service is to give them direct connection with the railway at Port Mulgrave.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I will take a memorandum of the hon. gentleman's suggestion, and if he will come to my office at any time convenient to him next week, we could look into the matter together. I think this is in accordance with the contract that has been going on for a number of years; but there may be ground for the change the hon. gentleman suggests, and if there is, and we are not tied up by the terms of the contract, I shall be glad to make it if we can do it without additional expense.

Mr. GILLIES. There is no additional expense. The item appeared this way in the Estimate formerly, but when the contract was drawn up, it was in the terms I suggest. If the hon. Minister will tell me that the contract will be drawn up in the terms I suggest, I shall be satisfied.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I could not make that promise until I have gone over the matter in detail, but I will be quite willing to consider the hon. gentleman's suggestion. If my hon. friend will send me a memorandum putting in writing the alterations he wishes made and will step over to my office, I will look over the matter with him with the contract in my hands. I think the hon.