

The next is this :

" OTTAWA, 18th January, 1883.

" Capt. FINLAYSON, steamer *Northern Light*, Georgetown, P. E. I.

" With knowledge of ice you must be judge, and held responsible for safety of boat. Incur no undue risks.

" WM. SMITH."

The third is a letter, dated Ottawa, 12th January, 1884 :

" SIR,—Referring to my letter to you of the 14th December, 1882, I have again to instruct you to use your own judgment as to when the *Northern Light* should run, and not to be governed by directions from any persons, as the Department will hold you responsible for the safety of the vessel, and you are to incur no risk whereby the safety of the vessel may be endangered by being caught in the ice. No risk, also, is to be incurred for the purpose of carrying over any particular passenger or passengers, and the Department expects that you will use your judgment in all matters affecting the running of the boat, and will hold you responsible for her safety.

" I am, Sir,

" Your most obedient servant,

" WILLIAM SMITH,

" Deputy Minister of Marine."

It is not at all surprising that, under such instructions as these, the captain of the *Northern Light* should, on the appearance of ice in the gulf, take his ship into port and lay her up. In fact, these instructions were tantamount to a command. I do not find fault with Captain Finlayson for obeying his orders. I believe any sensible man would do what he has done. Last year, as we know, the *Northern Light* did not make any trip at all. She was laid up in the harbor of Georgetown in the month of January, and she was unable to get out, and so she did not make a trip at all. A small schooner, about the 15th April, left Port Souris and safely landed her passengers the same day at Pictou, and she continued to make her trips for the rest of the season. The *Northern Light* was specially constructed for winter navigation, and I believe that, if certain improvements were made in her, she would do all that could be required in that way. It is useless for us to get the *Alert* or any other boat if she is not kept going in winter. It is quite as easy to pilot the *Alert* to a wharf as the *Northern Light*. The trouble is not with the boat at all, but with the Department, who have absolutely refused to keep the boat on her berth during the winter months. I think it is about time for the Government to take serious steps to carry out our terms of Union. Year after year we are bringing this subject before the House, and it appears to me that we are as far from having these terms carried out as we were years ago.

Mr. DAVIES. Although the subject matter of this motion may not be of very great importance to some hon. gentlemen who live in the upper Provinces of the Dominion, there is a phase of the subject which I think is important to every hon. member of this House. The question has now reached a new stage. For years, the representatives of Prince Edward Island have been complaining that the solemn terms of union have not been kept. Nay, we have gone further, and I think on both sides those representing both political parties have contended that there has not been an honest attempt made to carry out these terms. Public opinion in Prince Edward Island endorses that sentiment. The Legislature of Prince Edward Island, by a unanimous vote, embodied that sentiment in a memorial which they addressed to the present Government some few years ago, and at great length, which I do not intend to repeat here now, pointed out the steps that should be taken, pointed out the promises that the present Government had made, pointed out that they had broken those promises, and pointed out the fact that to-day and for years back the terms of union with Prince Edward Island had not been kept. Now, what is the stage in which the case now is, which I say demands the serious attention of the members of this Parliament. It is that, by unanimous vote, the Legislature of Prince Edward Island have determined that, if they cannot obtain the carrying out of these terms in a fair

Mr. MCINTYRE.

spirit and a proper manner, they will appeal to Her Majesty the Queen to dissolve the terms of union between Prince Edward Island and this Dominion. They forwarded that memorial to this Government, and they got very little satisfaction from the Government. They notified the Government that if they did not receive satisfaction, they would appeal in person to Her Majesty the Queen; but when the troubles broke out in the North-West last year, they informed this Government that, owing to those troubles, they would not press the matter for immediate attention. But the moment the troubles were over they insisted that the Government should give their attention to this matter. The Government did not give their attention to the matter, the Government did nothing, and, as I will show directly, the solemn promise made by the leader of the Government in the Upper House, in the other branch of this Legislature, was deliberately broken. The delegates went to England. I am not, myself, of the opinion that the Local Government was well advised. Notwithstanding the delay, notwithstanding the inaction, and the persistent determination of the Marine Department of this Dominion, that justice should not be done to Prince Edward Island, I believe there is enough of manly fair play in this House that, when the facts are thoroughly understood, to insist that the Government shall do its duty.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not object to a discussion upon the whole question, if it is proper upon the motion before you. But I think there is another motion on the Order paper which will properly bring up this discussion, whereas this one, I submit, does not do it.

Mr. DAVIES. I am surprised that the Minister of Marine should object to the discussion of this matter. What is the motion? My hon. colleague has asked for all correspondence between the Marine Department and the captain of the *Northern Light*, relating to the discontinuance of her trips during the month of February. Why, that is the very kernel of the complaint we make. The terms of union between the island and the Dominion provided that the Dominion should keep up an efficient steam communication between that Province and the mainland, so as to put the island into continuous communication with the railway system of the mainland. The point of the motion is that that contract has been broken during the past year, and that during the month of February communication was not kept up as it should have been. The Minister must have heard the statement which fell from the lips of my colleague a moment ago, that he applied last autumn, and since the present incumbent took possession of the office, to have the *Alert* put on to assist the *Northern Light*, and this application was refused, and, strong a supporter of the Government as he is, he did not hesitate to say that the refusal to put on the *Alert* was utterly unjustifiable. Why, Sir, does the hon. gentleman mean to tell me that I am not to discuss this question at all? Am I to sit silent and listen to these utterances, when all my constituents are so much interested, and when a delegation from the Government of the island is just returning from laying a memorial at the foot of the Imperial Throne, praying that justice may be done? I tell the hon. gentleman that unless I am put down by the authority of the Speaker, I will not remain silent. It is nonsense to talk that way, and the hon. gentleman knows it well. Now, Sir, I was proceeding to say, when I was interrupted, that this delegation went home to England and they presented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be laid at the foot of the Throne, a lengthy memorial reciting all the facts in connection with this contract made between the island and the Dominion, and reciting the alleged breaches of faith on the part of the Dominion. I was repeating that I am not satisfied myself that the Local Legislature took the proper course. I think, myself, and I repeat it again, that there is enough fair play in this