

SPEECH

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HON. MR. HOWLAN,

—ON—

Communication between Cape Tormentine, N.B. and Cape Traverse, P.E.I.

*Delivered before the Senate of Canada on the
9th April, 1885.*

COMMUNICATION WITH PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

INQUIRY.

HON. MR. HOWLAN rose to ask the Government whether after due consideration they will be prepared to recommend a survey to be made between Capes Traverse in Prince Edward Island and Tormentine in New Brunswick, with a view of building a subway or tunnel between the said points, so as to make a "continuous communication" with the said Island in accordance with one of the terms of union with the Dominion of Canada?

He said:—For some time past—I may say ever since Prince Edward Island became part and parcel of the Dominion of Canada—the question of winter navigation between that Island and the mainland has occupied the attention of many minds. The Government from time to time have provided what they believed to be a sufficient answer to that portion of the terms which were made with Prince Edward Island, but it is a fact which I need not go outside of this Senate to establish, that there has been a great deal of dissatisfaction with regard to how that particular service has been performed. It may be surprising to some gentlemen that I should take up the time of the Senate in bringing this matter before it, as it may perhaps be considered a subject affecting specially Prince Edward Island, but it is to the Senate of Canada that the smaller provinces must look to have their rights protected and the agreements made

between them and the Dominion carried out. It is to the Senate of Canada that they have to apply, in the first place, as the great bulwark of their rights and privileges. I am aware, at the outset, that I stand in a very difficult position because of the smallness of the population of the province from which I come. I am aware that I am standing in a Parliament composed of representatives from every section of the Dominion, and that the larger provinces of Ontario and Quebec have such a large unit, if I may use the term, in this Parliament, that one coming from a smaller province is disadvantageously situated. If, for instance, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island were federated into one province, with their population and their intelligence they would possess more influence in this great Confederation than they do at present. I do not say for a moment that this subject will not receive the consideration from the gentlemen representing the larger provinces that its importance deserves, but it must be apparent to everyone who has held a seat in this Parliament ever since the union, as it has been apparent to myself, that if a union had taken place between the Maritime provinces we would be in a better position to promote our interests here.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—It is not too late yet.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I am glad to hear the hon. gentleman say so, and I hope his reply to my question will be in