

when submarines travel the ocean bed and overcome all obstacles in the way, be it remembered that in this year of marvels the Island of Prince Edward in the Dominion of Canada ; separated from the mainland of the Dominion by a strait only nine miles wide at its narrowest part ; has been for nearly three weeks entirely cut off from all communication with the rest of the world, save what can be maintained by a few small boats furnished with runners and dependent for motor-power only on the brawny muscles and iron constitutions of the men who form the boats' crews. These boats can only ply in fine weather, when the danger of crossing the straits of Northumberland, filled with floating ice, is at its minimum. *There are not enough of these boats to perform the work of transporting mails and passengers to and fro.*

We have two steamers specially built for the purpose of maintaining communication between the Island and the mainland—the *Minto* and the *Stanley*. The *Minto* is the better of the two boats ; she at the beginning of the winter was placed upon the Pictou-Georgetown route. The *Stanley* which is an older and less powerful boat, was used at the beginning of the season for experimental purposes to prove the practicability of the route between Summerside and Cape Traverse. The experiment resulted in failure.

All the talk and fault-finding in the world cannot alter the fact that the interests of the Island were not being served by putting these steamers on different routes. The experience of many years has proved the Georgetown-Pictou route to be the best practicable winter route having accommodation at both termini for steamers. If both steamers had been put upon this route and kept there under the direction of Captain Finlayson of the *Minto*, whose sagacity and knowledge of the conditions of winter navigation have heretofore saved him from mistakes we venture to say that to-day there would be no cause for the wide-spread complaint uttered from one end of the province to the other. But this sensible thing could not be done and what is the result.

For over two months the *Stanley* has been imprisoned in an ice floe, and for weeks the *Minto* which finally was taken off her