

ment on a small scale. Had it been successful it would have been a strong inducement to commence and carry to completion the larger and more important undertaking. My hon. friend attached considerable importance to this as a Dominion work, and there I again completely agree with him. A great deal too much importance has been attached to the practice of calling everything that entails an expenditure connected with the crossing of those Straits and the keeping up of communication in winter between that Province and the mainland as specially a Prince Edward Island affair. I have met that argument so often that I am almost ashamed to refer to it again. How can anything connected with the conveyance of the mails and passengers be said to concern one party only? There must be surely two parties to every such transaction, and our experience tells us plainly that of all the travellers who cross the Straits in the winter only a small proportion are Islanders. They are men of business connected with commercial houses in different parts of Canada and elsewhere, commercial travellers, agents of manufacturers or officials, to whom mail communications are essential. Barely one-half of the travel can be said to be our own, and yet when any question of this kind comes up we are always charged with asking for something special in connection with our own Province. It is as much in connection with the rest of the Dominion as any other expenditure for mail purposes can be, and there is this in addition, that Canada is bound by the terms of Confederation to keep that communication open in the winter. If the Government cannot do so by steamships, then it is quite open to them to do so by any other means that are possible. I admit that up to the present time communication by steamships has not been found practicable, but I am not prepared to abandon the claim of my Province to it; nor do I demand that Canada shall attempt to perform an impossibility; but I hold her responsible for this—to provide for the present time the best available communication that can be had; if in the future by improvements in old methods, or the invention of new, a better mode of communication is discovered, then the

Government shall adopt it. I consider that is a fair and reasonable demand and one which cannot easily be gainsayed. I regret that my hon. friend has introduced anything into this question like party politics. He has introduced the question of soundings, but he got beyond his depths when he got into local politics—a thing at all times to be regretted in discussing public questions, and particularly so in this case, because those six gentlemen whose conduct he criticises so severely have been returned by a large majority of the voters of our Province.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—Not very large.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—They would not have come here if they had not obtained the confidence of the people. It seems to me to imply a lack of confidence to impale a public man in a House like this without any notice. I had no notice myself that the hon. gentleman intended to criticise the conduct of those men; if I had I would have perhaps provided myself with rebuttal evidence. I recollect the circumstances to which my hon. friend refers, with regard to a certain letter from Sir John Macdonald. I happened to be in Charlottetown myself at the time. My hon. friend had a meeting in the market hall that evening. I did not consider it as a public meeting. I understood that an announcement would be made to that meeting that my hon. friend had a promise from Sir John Macdonald to carry out the subway. That was the belief we had in Charlottetown, and I for one felt exactly in this way: I am as earnest and desirous to have that subway as my hon. friend, but I say here, and I have said the same thing in my own province, that I would rather do without the subway for the rest of my natural life than abandon my political liberty for any such object. I believe that the hon. gentleman would have advanced his case considerably more if he had dropped party and local politics out of the question. No good can be done by that. I have given heretofore, and will give again whatever support I am able to this scheme, because I believe it is for the benefit of the country if it can