

rows, and then back to Irish Cove on to St. Peter's on the return trip, as formerly. The service was four times a week in the past. I brought the matter to the notice of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and he said to me, it was certainly a reasonable request that the company should be compelled to do in the future as in the past. Really this company are doing as they please now, and my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) will understand the manner in which these corporations are apt to treat the public if they are not checked and brought to some sense of reason. What I wish to impress upon my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) is: that he should immediately compel that company to enter into a contract for the due and proper performance of the service from Mulgrave down to St. Peter's, through to Irish Cove, and through the Grand Narrows and back again to St. Peter's. They are getting their \$7,000 for that; and heaven knows it is a large subsidy, and they should perform the service. These people who are shut out from communication should not be treated by the company in the way they are now being treated.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. What is the name of the company?

Mr. GILLIES. The Bras d'Or Steam Navigation Company. It is now the 1st of July, and certainly the contract should be entered into.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce told me that he found it impossible to attend to these small matters because of the rush of business, and I can quite understand that; but now when the session is brought to a close, knowing as I do the desire of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (because he himself assured me of it) to have a proper service performed there, I would again ask the Minister of Marine, in the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to press this matter immediately on the attention of his confrères. It is a hardship as it exists now, and it is a hardship that should not be permitted.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will take a special note of the complaint of the hon. member (Mr. Gillies) and take care that it is laid before my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) when he returns this afternoon.

Railways and Canals—Chargeable to Capital—Intercolonial Railway—To pay for land and damages, Oxford and New Glasgow and Cape Breton divisions..... \$2,000

Mr. GILLIES. Is it intended that this sum shall cover all the railway land damages in Cape Breton district? I know that there are several claims before the Railway Department, and I would like to know whe-

ther this sum is intended to cover all these claims.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). My impression is that it will cover all that we have any knowledge of up to the present time.

Mr. GILLIES. I have in my hands several claims for damages in the Cape Breton district. I wrote several letters to the department in reference to them, but received no reply. An official was sent from the department last winter to investigate them. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has a return of all the claims for land damages resulting from the construction of the Government railway in the Cape Breton district, and if so, can I have a copy of these claims? I want to ascertain whether the claims on behalf of which I have made demand are in the department, as I cannot find out otherwise.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I would be very happy to give the hon. gentleman any information he requires. I have not it in my hand at the present moment. I think the sum put in here is the usual amount. The claims are coming in from year to year, and we are endeavouring to settle them as soon as they come in, and I think they have averaged about \$2,000. Whether the claims the hon. gentleman refers to are included I cannot say, but I shall be glad to allow the hon. gentleman, at any time, to have access to any information we have if he will call at the department; but there is no return in my possession.

Mr. GILLIES. There was a claim for damages at a place called Jamesville, near the Grand Narrows, which I wish to mention specially, as it has been hanging for some time. I wrote to the hon. gentleman's department four or five times, but, for some reason, I could not get a reply.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Did the hon. gentleman write to me?

Mr. GILLIES. I wrote once or twice to the Minister himself last winter. I was a little surprised at not receiving any reply. However, the department sent an officer down there to inspect the claim, and he visited the place. I happened to see him when he was there, and I directed him to go to the person whose land was damaged, and who would give him all the information he required. This was some time last January. I have not heard a word since, although my client has been frequently importuning me to get the matter settled in some way or other, or to get some decided answer. I would like to know, in this particular case, among several others, what decision the department has come to, and I will avail myself of the invitation now offered me by the Minister, to call at the depart-