

when the National Policy was first proposed, saw that they, individually, could not benefit by that policy, but they loyally acceded to it and sent five out of six members to endorse it. I think that that fact should induce this House, if Prince Edward Island required more than justice, to give us a little more than justice; but we do not look for more than justice. We look simply for the carrying out of the Terms of the Union in regard to steam communication. My hon. colleague has spoken as to the branch line at Cape Traverse and seems rather to doubt the sincerity of the hon. Minister of Railways in having had an amount voted last Session for the construction of that railway. The people of the Island are not in unison as to the point at which that branch should tap the main line. The hon. member was in favor of the branch from the county line to Cape Traverse. A very important section of country along the line between Wiltshire and Cape Traverse are in favor of having a longer branch from Cape Traverse to North Wiltshire. This will have the advantage of passing through a very fertile country, four of the largest and most fertile settlements of the whole Island lying in that line, and the inhabitants of those points are very anxious the line should run in that direction. The hon. Minister of Railways gave me a promise, that before any action should be taken in regard to the building of the line, that route would be surveyed, and if practicable, adopted. That, I believe, is one of the reasons for the delay in building the branch. With regard to the boat houses, I may also say that in November I had an interview with the hon. Postmaster General, and he promised that the boat houses would be built and the water boats put on, if the contractors would place them in the contract at anything like a reasonable sum. When I returned to the Island I had an interview with Captain Irvine, and we agreed on what was a reasonable sum, to build the boat houses and put on the water boats, but when he conferred with his partner, they came to the conclusion the season was too far advanced, and they could not get lumber to build the boat houses. That is the reason the houses were not built. As to the water boats, the contractors did not seem prepared to put on the water boats this season, but I believe next season boat houses will be built and water boats put on. I am sure they will prove of great benefit to the passengers, because, as my hon. colleague has said, one of the greatest hardships in crossing is to get into an icy cold wretched boat. The people of the Island have for a long time been very patient, I think too patient. They have now awakened to the necessities of their position. This year they have been aroused, because it is a matter of fact that a very large proportion of the products of the season remain on the Island to the great loss of the farmers and shippers and the consumers on this side. The necessities of their trade are so great, owing to the increased acreage of cultivation, that the people of the Island are alive to the fact that they must do their best and put their shoulders to the wheel. A meeting was held lately at which strong resolutions were passed. I wish my hon. colleague had delayed his notice of motion until we would have had these resolutions, and the petitions being signed throughout the country, before this House. They, I think, would have strengthened our position. As to steam communication, I have an idea of my own. I believe that the Terms of Union will never be carried out until we have a steamer running between Capes Traverse and Tormentine, which will be able to carry cars from the Island line to the Intercolonial. Now, the advantages of that to Prince Edward Island would be incalculable. It would prove also a very large feeder to the Intercolonial Railway, and would draw a large traffic to the Prince Edward Island Railway. It would be of immense benefit to the farmers by enabling them to send their fresh meat, fish, and eggs to the large manufacturing towns in the United

Mr. JENKINS.

States, and I believe it would revolutionize the system of farming as well as the carrying trade of the Island. That is a question which I hope to see brought before the House in a more mature form at a future time. My hon. colleague has expressed doubts as to the sincerity of the present Government, but I am quite sure the present Government has the best feeling towards Prince Edward Island, and I am sure that under their rule Prince Edward Island, instead of being the step-child of the Dominion, as she was under the late Government, will become the pet child. I think we have every reason to hope so. The hon. the leader of the Opposition said a few days ago, in the debate on the Address, that he felt it his duty to throw a shadow over the bright picture of sunshine and prosperity that had been presented to the House. I think we ought to hope that it may long remain the province of the hon. member to cast only a metaphorical shade over the prosperity which now gladdens the hearts of the people of the Dominion.

Mr. McINTYRE (King's, P.E.I.) This question has been so thoroughly discussed by the hon. gentlemen who have preceded me, that I shall say but little more on this occasion. This is not a new subject on the floor of this House. In 1874, when I had the honor of a seat here before, it was a subject of discussion on several occasions. As a consequence of those discussions, the *Northern Light* was placed on the route between Pictou and Georgetown, and I think that all parties since that time have come to the conclusion that the boat has performed excellent service, both sides of politics in the Island to-day agreeing on that point. Of course she has not accomplished all that we desire, but she has done remarkably well so far as shortening our winter is concerned. She has cut off three or four weeks on each side of winter, both spring and fall. This year, unfortunately, navigation closed very early in the season; in fact, large masses of ice were drifting down from the northeast at the very time our lakes and rivers were being frozen. The *Northern Light* does very well in the fall and spring of the year, as long as the ice is loose. But an experience of six or seven years shows that we require a better service, and we shall expect to see all these improvements effected which hon. gentlemen have suggested. We shall expect that the hon. gentlemen who now govern the country will make such improvements in our communication as the people of the Island may justly ask for. I have long been of the opinion that Pictou is not the proper place for the boat to go. I think Cape George is a much better place, because there is open water between the Island side and that Cape; however, I understand that the breakwater there has been destroyed, so we must depend on Pictou, for a while at least, as the mainland port. What we require now is a large boat, in fact two of them, to make our winter communication what it ought to be. We also require more attention paid to our summer communication in the eastern and southern sections of King's County. One of the Fishwick boats now calls at Murray Harbor. I believe she should also call at the Port of Souris, from which, in summer, a large quantity of canned fish and other freight might be shipped. For several weeks of the year it is very difficult for any ship to get through the ice between Pictou and Georgetown. In the present year the 10th of January was the last occasion that the *Northern Light* made any attempt to cross. As far as the branch railway is concerned, I think, as the money has been appropriated for that purpose, the branch ought to be constructed, because in the dead of winter this will be our only means of communication to and from the New Brunswick shore. For that reason we have every right to expect that the Government will go on with the construction of that railway. In fact from what we saw last summer, when the elections were in progress, we expected the branch would be completed before the elections were over. I have always contended that we should have improved communication in that direction. It is impossible for the