

"7. During the time when the "Northern Light" is laid up the people of the Island are obliged to resort to the old method of crossing between the Capes (Traverse and Tormentine) already described, a route attended with many hardships and great danger. In the month of January last a party of twenty-two persons were detained on the ice for two days and one night in an attempt to make the passage, when they suffered most severely from cold and exposure—the majority of them being badly frozen—and several have since suffered amputation of their limbs as a result of the injuries then received.

"8. One of the principal inducements held out to the people of this Island to enter the Confederation, was the promise contained in that clause of the terms of Union quoted at the opening of this memorial, and they naturally expected that a union with the Dominion would bring them uninterrupted communication at all seasons of the year with the rest of Canada and the world. They believed that they would, therefore, enjoy equal facilities for intercourse with the other Provinces as those Provinces enjoyed between themselves, and that therefore they would participate in many benefits and advantages accruing from the Intercolonial Railway and other public works upon the mainland, from which they had previously been debarred for a great portion of the year. Cut off, as they had always been for nearly five months of the twelve, from all communication with the mainland, except by a most uncertain and dangerous route, the promise of continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway and the railway system of the Dominion was, indeed, a strong incentive to them to surrender their self-government and unite with Canada.

"9. The inconvenience and loss which they have suffered in consequence of the failure of the Dominion Government to provide them with the efficient communication promised, are incalculable, while the disappointment to their reasonable expectations has not tended to enhance, in their estimation, the value of a connection with the Dominion, but on the contrary, has awakened a feeling of discontent which, though a matter of regret, is not unnatural under the circumstances. Were it only the transport of freight and merchandise that were stopped during the winter, they would have good reason to complain of being precluded from the benefits of the Intercolonial and other railways which their more fortunate neighbors on the mainland enjoy; but their chief grievances is that, in direct violation of the solemn compact upon which they entered Confederation, and to which Your Majesty was graciously pleased to be a party, the Dominion Government have not provided that efficient or continuous means whereby mails and passengers can be transported to and from the mainland.

"10. The people of this Province, we submit, have just grounds of complaint at the inaction of the Dominion Government, and at the extraordinary apathy which has been shown in regard to the interest of this Island, in the matter of communication with the mainland. Nine winters have passed since the "Northern Light" was first placed on the route, and, notwithstanding the fact that her inefficiency for the service was apparent from the outset, no other steps have been taken to fulfil the terms of Union. From the time the "Northern Light" ceases running until she again resumes her trips, a period averaging, as already mentioned, sixty-four days each year, the Post Office Department transmits the mails by the route between Capes Traverse and Tormentine, and during this period in each year, the Dominion Government have, at no time since Confederation, made any provisions whatever, for the transport of passengers, who are forced to make such arrangements as best they can for crossing to and from the mainland. This unaccountable neglect on the part of the Government of Canada is the most direct violation of the terms of

Union which we are called upon to represent to Your Majesty. Moreover the Dominion Government have established no communication between the Intercolonial Railway and Cape Tormentine, so that travellers are compelled in passing between these points, to drive in open sleighs a distance of forty miles, in the coldest and most stormy portion of the year. Between Cape Traverse and the line of the Prince Edward Island Railway, a distance of about twelve miles, railway connection has been opened, and that but partially only this winter, although provided for by Parliament three years ago.

"11. The derangement of business consequent upon the irregularity of the mail service, when for many days at a time no communication is had with the rest of Canada, exercises a most prejudicial effect upon the interests of the Island. The hardships of travelling, which only the strong and robust are able to endure, and the dangers attendant upon the present mode which have been most painfully exemplified this winter, are other disadvantages from which the people of this Province suffer most acutely.

"12. The feeling that they are being unjustly treated is not without strong foundation. In order to fulfil the terms of Union with British Columbia, a Province of less than 15,000 of a population, exclusive of Indians and Chinese, Canada has contracted for the construction of nearly 3,000 miles of railway at a cost of more than eighty millions of dollars.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B.C.)—That statement about the white population of British Columbia is wrong. At that time there were at least 60,000 white people in the Province.

HON. MR. PROWSE—I have seen similar figures to these frequently quoted and have never known the statement to be contradicted before.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I have never heard or seen those figures before.

HON. MR. PROWSE—At all events the white population of British Columbia was not at that time as large as the population of Prince Edward Island, or anything near it. I have some recollection that British Columbia was admitted to the Union on an assumed population of 60,000, but I am quite satisfied the statement here made is correct. The Address continues:

"This gigantic undertaking is being pushed forward at a rate unparalleled in the world's history, and a vast expenditure is being made, and still more is contemplated, in acquiring and subsidizing other railroads and in forging the links to bind the scattered Provinces from the Atlantic to the Pacific; yet the fulfilment of the terms of Union with this Island, by providing the means of communication over a Strait, only nine miles wide, is postponed from year to year, without any thought, it would seem, that thereby a sacred obligation is being violated, and an immense injury being done to a large body of people.

"13. This grievance of which we here complain has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the General Government, while, session after session, the representatives of the Island in the Dominion Parliament