

periment of the same kind, and her success was only partial, but it may lead to further and greater success some day or other. For my part I am prepared to wait, but I do think I have the right, in the meantime, to demand that the Government should treat our Province as they would treat any other Province in the Dominion; that they should regard the mail service of Prince Edward Island just the same as they regard the mail service of Ontario or Quebec, and provide the means for carrying out those necessary improvements, as they would do for anywhere else. I remember last year the Minister of Justice fairly and candidly admitted that the carriage of mails and passengers was not a question pertaining to one particular Province, but was of equal importance to all those with whom we traded. Now a special promise, which was made to the Province of Prince Edward Island last year, was that a branch railway should be built from our trunk line to the cape whence our crossing of the Straits commences, and an appropriation was taken for that purpose. That branch railway has not been commenced; ground has not been broken for it. It was further promised that improvements should be made in the winter passage of the Straits—that provision should be made for improving the boat service, and for assisting the ice boats with heavy and properly manned row boats. Now, these are, comparatively speaking, trivial matters, and yet they make all the difference between crossing promptly and remaining on the other side. I saw an instance a few days ago where, if a properly manned row-boat had been provided at Cape Tormentine, the mails could have crossed promptly; as it was they had to remain two days on the Island side. If these improvements were taken in hand and carried out, it would show a desire and a determination on the part of the Dominion Government to assist the people of Prince Edward Island, and they would feel that their wants and wishes were known and appreciated by the Dominion Government. If the members of the Government will allow me to state it from my place in the House, I would say, what is wanted is a live man on that shore, with full authority and *carte blanche* to carry out the measures, which are necessary for improving this

route. To remit this sort of improvement to officials outside whose regular duty it is, is simply to postpone it. The official naturally seeks to carry out Dominion improvements of that sort on as reasonable an outlay as possible. This is not the sort of thing to economise on; lives and property are at stake, and it would be exceedingly rash to risk human life and the mails of the country for the sake of spending a few dollars. Give us a live man with good administrative ability, and give him *carte blanche* to carry out his views. Allow me to state my experience of the last fortnight of the result of this want of proper communication with our Province. I attended a public meeting the other day held some seven or eight miles from the Straits, and I was vexed and annoyed to find the amount of ill-feeling which was creeping over men's minds with regard to our connection with the Dominion, and chiefly on account of inattention on the part of the Government to those trivial matters. Men were saying "give us our terms, or cut us adrift; let us be as we were when we were independent." That is the feeling which exists, and which will continue until the Government of this great country displays an earnest desire to meet with the wishes of the people of our Province. I thank the House for listening to me so patiently; but, as I said, I cannot but feel, though the subject is well worn, it is still of so much importance and creates so much feeling in my part of the Dominion, that I would not perform my duty if I did not stand up here and advocate these necessary matters.

HON. MR. GIRARD—It seems to me that there is a duty on an occasion like this, especially for those representing the smaller Provinces of the Dominion, to express themselves upon the Speech of our gracious Queen, and to aid in shewing the progress and prosperity existing in every part of the Dominion; and I am also happy to be able to appear before this House and tell hon. gentlemen about me, that Manitoba, although a new Province, is not the least in that progress. It has probably been known in the different parts of the Dominion that dissatisfaction existed there at a certain time, and while I admit that such a feeling did exist, it was not