

me similar to those the hon. gentleman has quoted. I have a letter here written a year or two ago which I will read :

Office of the General Traffic Manager,
Moncton, New Brunswick, May 15, 1906.

D. Pottinger, Esq.,
General Manager, Moncton, New Brunswick.

Dear Sir,—Referring to your letter under date of May 12, asking for some information called for by the House:

I inclose you herewith freight tariffs of the Prince Edward Island Railway, one the maximum general freight tariff in effect prior to January 1, 1906, and the other the maximum freight mileage tariff applicable after January 1, 1906. I also give you the rates on grain for export last winter.

The House is rather thin, but I am sure there are some hon. members here who will appreciate these figures and who will see the position in which the province is placed with regard to freight rates. This is the statement that was sent to Mr. Pottinger by Mr. Tiffin :

From Montreal to St. John, 9 cents per 100 pounds, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per 100 pounds for elevation; distance 735 miles.

That is, you could take 100 pounds from Montreal to St. John, a distance of 735 miles, for 9 cents.

From Montreal to Halifax, 9 cents per 100 pounds, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per 100 pounds for elevation; distance 832 miles.

From Montreal to Sydney, $16\frac{1}{2}$ cents per 100 pounds; distance 977 miles.

I might add, however, that there would be no grain for export via Sydney.

In very sharp contrast to that, this letter quotes the rates in my province :

Regular rates on grain in carloads from Tignish to St. John, 26 cents per 100 pounds; distance 432 miles.

Regular rates on grain in carloads from Tignish to Halifax, 23 cents per 100 pounds; distance 309 miles.

Regular rates on grain in carloads from Tignish to Sydney, 26 cents per 100 pounds; distance 380 miles.

I want the Minister of Railways to take note of this. You can take from Montreal to St. John, 735 miles, 100 pounds for 9 cents, but from my province, from Tignish to St. John, only half the distance, you charge 26 cents per 100 pounds. Those are your railway rates. Do you suppose that the people of that province do not feel the injustice under which they labour in having to pay these very exorbitant rates? They are not only excessive; they are exorbitant, and I do not think the Minister of Railways, a gentleman for whom we have great respect and who is new in his position, would like to tyrannize over that small province the way it has been tyrannized over for years. I think it behooves him to do something to remove that great injustice. From Tignish to Halifax, a distance of 309 miles, the rate

Mr. MARTIN (Queens, P.E.I.)

is 23 cents. How fair is that to the island province? You pay 23 cents for 309 miles when you only pay 9 cents for over 800 miles on the Intercolonial Railway. From Tignish to Sydney it is 26 cents for 380 miles. I do not think that this condition exists for want of bringing it to the attention of the government. Time and time again it has been brought to the attention of the government by the representatives in parliament, by the boards of trade in Prince Edward Island and by the maritime board of trade which meets in Halifax, but no remedy has been provided. It would be useless to quote figures at any greater length here, because if these figures which I have quoted are not sufficient to convince any hon. member or any member of the government I think I might as well give it up. I asked some questions in regard to this matter in the early part of the session and they told me it was under consideration. Well, it has been under consideration for ten years, perhaps twenty years, and we want to know how long that consideration is going to last. Give some decision. I am glad to see that my colleagues are here. I did not know that the question was to be brought up for discussion to-day. I have piles of figures, but I do not think it is necessary to go any further because I have proved my case up to the hilt and I hope at last, now that the hon. member for Kings, P.E.I., (Mr. Hughes) has wakened up that he will impress this matter upon the government and do what he can to assist us in securing the removal of this injustice.

Mr. A. A. McLEAN (Queens, P.E.I.). Like my colleague I did not know that this matter was coming up this afternoon, and I am therefore quite unprepared to discuss it. It is a matter that has engaged the attention of every farmer and of every business man not only of Prince Edward Island, but of the maritime provinces. It is a matter which has engaged the attention of the people of Prince Edward Island and those who deal with them. My colleague (Mr. A. Martin) has stated that the hon. member for Kings (Mr. Hughes) had wakened up to the fact that this was a matter of some importance, because every time that the matter of transportation has been brought up in the House he has either ridiculed members on this side of the House coming from that province or he has pointed out to the government that it was simply a grievance they were using for political purposes. Now, he has come out of his shell and he sees, with the rest of the province, that it is a very important matter and one which should receive the immediate attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Graham) and of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Brodeur). Last year a commission including, I think, the deputy Minister of Railways and Canals, the deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries and