

members will see at once the disabilities which our people labor under in this regard. Turning to the Trade and Navigation Returns, I find the following to be the comparative exports of potatoes from the different Provinces for the year ended 30th June, 1888 :—

Provinces.	Bushels Exported.	Value Realized.	Average Price.
	Bushels.	\$	
Ontario	102,253	66,615	65·2 c. p. bush.
Nova Scotia	677,872	355,655	52·5 do
Maniba	99,858	47,059	47·1 do
New Brunswick	350,846	161,482	46·0 do
Quebec	169,845	76,507	45·0 do
P. E. Island	1,294,056	343,177	26·5 do
Total	2,694,730	1,050,495	

1887.—Total export of starch, \$1,229,399. Prince Edward Island exported \$1,164,600, or 94½ per cent. of the above.

It will be seen from this comparison that Prince Edward Island gets less than one-half of what Ontario gets; less than one-half of what Nova Scotia gets; about half what Manitoba gets; about half of what New Brunswick gets, and about half what Quebec gets for her potatoes. To put the matter more forcibly for her 1,294,056 bushels, Prince Edward Island does not get as much as Nova Scotia gets for 677,872 bushels. That cannot be otherwise, for want of proper communication with the mainland and the markets of the world. If our Province was tacked on to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and could ship every day with the same freedom that they can from St. John or Halifax, the exhibit would be largely in our favor. The result of the existing condition of affairs is that she now loses, for every head of her population, about \$3, or \$17.50 per family, on this one item of potatoes alone, for want of proper communication with the mainland. We are compelled in the fall of the year, in frost and snow, to ship our products, because we know, when our ports freeze up, we are shut out from the markets. And again in the spring of the year, when potatoes are high in the markets of the United States and in the neighboring Provinces, we cannot ship our produce from the fact that our harbors are frozen up. I have to-day a telegram from Summerside stating that there are nine

vessels loaded there for market, and asking for assistance of the steamer *Stanley* to open the harbor, still frozen over. On every item of farm produce we find that we are at a disadvantage in our shipments as compared with the other Provinces. I know that it will be said in reply that the Dominion Government spend a large amount of money on postal service in Prince Edward Island. I admit that they do, and it is for the simple reason that while other Provinces have a population of only 4·72 to the mile, we have 51 to the square mile, and the expenditure for post office service is comparatively large. It looks large without investigation, but on enquiry it is found that our expenditure for postal service is not as great as in some other portions of the Dominion. The comparative expenditures for postal service in the different Provinces are as follows :—

Prince Edward Island—Population 108,891.

Expenditure	\$ 50,682.31
Net revenue	31,390.83
Deficit	\$ 19,291.48

British Columbia—Population 49,459.

Expenditure	\$ 158,542.39
Net revenue	51,545.81
Deficit	\$ 93,997.57

Manitoba—Population 65,954.

Expenditure	\$ 286,554.77
Net revenue	151,658.49
Deficit	\$ 134,896.28

New Brunswick—Population 321,233.

Expenditure	\$ 280,109.99
Net revenue	142,342.82
Deficit	\$ 137,767.17

Nova Scotia—Population 440,572.

Expenditure	\$ 306,860.66
Net revenue	197,450.15
Deficit	\$ 109,410.51

Quebec—Population 1,359,027.

Expenditure	\$ 753,066.99
Net revenue	555,823.54
Deficit	\$ 197,243.45

Ontario—Population 1,923,228.

Expenditure	\$1,632,273.51
Net revenue	1,470,044.72
Deficit	\$ 152,238.79

So that, as far as the expense of the post office is concerned, which is sometimes brought up against us as a great expenditure in Prince Edward Island, it is not