

Mr. BAKER: May I ask what is the population of Wood Islands?

Mr. SINCLAIR: Wood Islands is only a rural community.

Mr. BAKER: What is its population that it is to be accommodated at this tremendous expenditure?

Mr. SINCLAIR: It is the entire eastern end of the province.

Mr. BAKER: But the population of the whole island is only eighty thousand.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Yes, but they are real people, you know. Section 10 of the imperial order in council under the British North America Act stated that we should have an efficient steam service for the conveyance of mails and passengers between the island and the mainland winter and summer, thus placing the island in continuous communication with the railway system of the dominion. That has been carried out to a certain extent, but I wish to direct the attention of the committee to section 12, which says:

And such other changes as may be incident to, and connected with, the services by which the British North America Act, 1867, appertain to the general government, and as are or may be allowed to the other provinces.

We have not the privileges that have been given to the other provinces, where you can go from one border to the other without difficulty. If we want to take a truckload of produce from Prince Edward Island, we have to load the truck on a flat car, and it costs \$12 or \$14 to take it across. This new ferry will give us direct communication with our trucks. The car ferry has not the capacity to take them. That is what we are looking for to-day, and that is why we want this ferry between Wood Islands and the mainland.

Mr. BENNETT: How many miles across would it be?

Mr. SINCLAIR: Fourteen miles.

Mr. MacNICOL: This vote has to do with Wood Islands harbour, and that is what we want some information about.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Wood Islands is the eastern end of the province.

Mr. MacNICOL: The whole eastern end of it?

Mr. SINCLAIR: It takes in the whole eastern half of it.

Mr. MacNICOL: It is out in the ocean somewhere?

Mr. SINCLAIR: No, it is not; it is the eastern end of the province. People in the

maritimes go down to Sackville, turn off and go down to Tormentine and to the Cape Breton national park. Then they take a run through the Annapolis valley, and that is the only way we can establish any tourist traffic in Prince Edward Island. We have been voting millions of dollars for the west and other places; now we are looking for something for Prince Edward Island, and this is what we want. If this is established in Prince Edward Island we will have something which will bring tourist traffic. That is what we want to see.

Mr. BENNETT: Would the hon. member be good enough to tell us from what part on the mainland the ferry will run?

Mr. SINCLAIR: From Wood Islands to Pictou Island.

Mr. BENNETT: That is fourteen miles.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member says the ferry is to be operated by private enterprise. What is the cost of it?

Mr. SINCLAIR: I do not know the cost of it; it is a private enterprise. But we are going to build it here, and—

Mr. BENNETT: I have frequently been in Pictou harbour, but the point is that the ferry must cost a large sum of money, because on the ferry we have now, running from Borden, we spent something in the vicinity of a million dollars or more. Then we had to provide that the old ferry be repaired so that there would be continuous operation of the new one. This ferry, which will carry trucks and passenger cars cannot be built for less than a million dollars, if it is to run in the winter. I do not know whether or not it is to run in the winter.

Mr. SINCLAIR: No, just in the summer months.

Mr. BENNETT: Then it will be an inexpensive ferry costing perhaps \$100,000 or \$150,000. The hon. member said the landing place was Pictou Island. I would point out that Pictou Island is not on the mainland, so there would have to be a ferry from the east coast of Prince Edward Island to Pictou Island. Now, how are you going to get from Pictou Island to the mainland?

Mr. SINCLAIR: I may have made a mistake there; it is Pictou landing.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh yes, that is different; it is on the mainland. The hon. member said something about a subsidy to maintain the ferry; what does he mean by that?