

the only work of great importance that ever yet had been undertaken at the public expense in that Island, yet its cost was insignificant in comparison with the public expenditures undertaken or contemplated in other less important sections of the Dominion. This canal in its present condition had been constructed by the Provincial Government before Confederation, and was now found to be totally inadequate to meet the wants of the people and the requirements of the trade it was intended to foster and develop. It had been constructed according to a design adapted to the circumstances of the country when the trade and population of Cape Breton were less than half of what they were to-day. When this canal was first agitated, and for some years afterward, many believed that the money it would cost would be thrown away, but the experience of a few years (the canal was opened in 1867) had shewn the incorrectness of that opinion. Even in its present state, affording accommodation only to the smaller class of vessels, the work had proved a great convenience and benefit to the people. What was now required was the enlargement of the canal to suit a large class of vessels. Several attempts had already been made to secure steam communication through the interior of Cape Breton by means of St. Peter's Canal, but in consequence of the dimensions of the works these operations had to be dropped. Any one acquainted with the geography of the island was aware that the Inland Sea, called the Bras d'Or Lake, afforded water communication with the whole interior of that country, and as there were no railroads yet in the island, that means of communication should be improved in every reasonable way. The people of Cape Breton had no railroad, although they had to bear their share of the cost of all railroads constructed at the public expense. The completion of a Ship Canal at St. Peter's would only be a small instalment of the claims of the island on the Government, when they considered the enormous expenditures made or contemplated in other sections of the country on public improvements. Last Session \$250,000 were placed on the Estimates for this purpose, of which

\$75,000 were to have been expended during the past season, but nothing had been done. An impression had got abroad that the Government were not acting candidly with the people in this matter, in consequence of which there existed a wide-spread feeling of discontent. He (Mr. Miller) did not share in that opinion. On the contrary, he had reason to believe that the Government fully intended to confer on that section of the country a great boon by enlarging and improving St. Peter's Canal—that they intended to carry out the work they had recommended to Parliament in good faith—and that no further time would be lost in doing so. It was desirable, however, that the country should have some official assurance to this effect, and he therefore hoped that his hon. friend would be able to give a satisfactory answer to the Question he would then put, viz.: What steps have been taken by the Government towards the enlargement of St. Peter's Canal, in the island of Cape Breton, as provided for in the Estimates of last Session, and whether it is intended to carry out the contemplated improvements of the said work during the present year?

HON. MR. BOURINOT had much pleasure in supporting the inquiry of his hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Miller.) He hoped that due consideration would be given by the Government to a question of such serious importance to the interests of the Island of Cape Breton. He (Hon. Mr. Bourinot) had supported the measure in the Legislature of Nova Scotia. When that Province entered into the Confederation, one of the reasons why he thought such a course desirable was, that the feeling which existed previously to Confederation with regard to Nova Scotia would not be found to exist in the Dominion. He was, however, sadly disappointed, for he was sorry that justice had not been done to that important part of the Dominion of Canada, but he hoped that the Government would be prepared to meet the views of his hon. friend, by carrying out the work in accordance with the recommendation of Parliament.

HON. MR. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST heartily approved of the strong expression of opinion on the part of