

Address. I rose more for the purpose of directing the attention of the Government to matters of provincial interest, than to make a general criticism of the Address. I see that in the 11th clause reference is made to the Intercolonial Railway and congratulations are claimed that the traffic on that road, and its profits also, are greatly increased. I am exceedingly glad to hear this, but I think it is much more important that its traffic should be enlarged than that its profits should be increased. The main point on a national road of that sort is to make the people use it largely, and if incidentally the profits are large enough to cover the expenditure, we may congratulate ourselves upon it. What I wish to do is to draw attention to one source from which the traffic of the Intercolonial Railway might be still further increased, and that is the traffic (particularly in winter) of Prince Edward Island. I regret to say that no measure—even those measures which were promised to us last session, for the improvement of our winter transit from the Island Province to the mainland, had been carried into effect. This is, I think, the more to be regretted, because I, in common with other representatives of Prince Edward Island, never, perhaps, left this Capital for home more fully persuaded that a beginning was about to be made to carry out the terms of Confederation, which had been before us for so many years, than last year. I candidly admit I was met last year on the floor of this House, when I called the attention of the Senate to the subject, in a most straightforward manner by the hon. gentleman who leads the Government in this House, and from his manner on that occasion, and from what occurred afterwards in making appropriations for the building of branch lines of railway in Prince Edward Island, and other engagements which the Ministry had entered into for the purpose of facilitating winter traffic between Prince Edward Island and the mainland, I, and I think most of my countrymen also, anticipated we had seen the last of the old system, and when this winter, which is now upon us came on, we should find several improvements on the system which had prevailed for so many years. We were unfortunately disappointed, and I think I should hardly have risen to my feet on

this occasion if it had not been for the purpose of attempting to draw from the hon. leader of the Government, in this House some statement of their intentions in the future, and some explanation of the cause why those improvements so long promised and so long expected were not, at all events commenced, during the last season. It is quite undeniable—it has been admitted on all hands, that the terms on which our Province entered the union are indisputable, clear and precise—quite as clear and precise as those on which British Columbia entered the confederation. For many years British Columbia, had to wait, and it was perhaps almost as impossible then to carry the terms agreed upon literally into effect, as it may have been sometimes to carry out the terms of confederation with Prince Edward Island; but British Columbia did not sit down hopeless and helpless. Her members always agitated for the bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill, and ultimately we have seen the success which is attending their efforts. It may be urged that the fulfilment of the terms of union with Prince Edward Island is altogether a physical impossibility. I am not going to urge or advocate the attempting of any such impossibility. What I say is that it may be at present our means or appliances are inadequate to keep ice-bound harbors open during the winter, but I say the time may come,—it may be nearer than we suppose,—when our improved knowledge of science may enable us to devise means of which we have no idea now, or discover new forces, or new appliances of old forces, by means of which one of the great problems of this Dominion—the opening of ice-bound harbors—may be set at rest.

With such a climate as this Dominion possesses it is a question of very lively importance to other parts of the Dominion as well as Prince Edward Island, and I say further, that the attempts that have been made, and which have failed in this respect, must simply be regarded as experiments. In the case of British Columbia, for instance, I think something like three millions of dollars were spent in surveys on a projected railroad. Of course it was not all spent in British Columbia, but it was all spent with a view to the commencement of the Pacific Railway. The "Northern Light" was an ex-