

Sir, because we find that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company are obtaining a charter for the purpose of operating a railway from Winnipeg to Moncton, a distance of 1,800 miles, which will cost the people of Canada some \$75,000,000 or \$100,000,000. And while the people of Prince Edward Island will be called upon to contribute their share of that large expenditure, it is only right that they should in some way participate in the benefits accruing from that expenditure of money. There is no proposition now before parliament to meet any of the claims of Prince Edward Island. In that province we are unable to develop its resources because of the non-fulfilment of the terms of union. We have resources which may be developed to a very large extent; and while everything appears to be going to the west, while this expenditure of money is for the alleged purpose of developing the west and carrying the products of the west to the markets of the world, nothing is being done to assist the people of Prince Edward Island to carry their products to these markets in the winter season when they are shut off from communication with the rest of the world. I therefore claim that while the government of Canada is about to expend this vast sum of money for the purpose of affording transportation facilities to the people of western Canada, the least that can be expected is that the government will connect the province of Prince Edward Island with this system of railways which they are now about inaugurating. While I had the honour of bringing this motion before parliament the other evening, I was told by the Minister of Finance that this was a charter for a private company, and that the government were not interested. I say that the government are interested. They are building this railway from Winnipeg to Moncton, and when the railway is built the trains are to be operated by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company. The trains running over that system will pass Sackville, some 38 miles east of Moncton, on the way to Halifax. It is not intended that these trains should stop at Moncton; it is not a seaport, it is not an outlet for the products of the country, and so the trains will have to pass Sackville, summer and winter, on their way to Halifax. Now, Sackville is within 40 miles of Cape Tormentine, and from Cape Tormentine to Prince Edward Island it is eight or nine miles, so that in passing Sackville the trains of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway will be passing within some 50 miles of the shores of Prince Edward Island. All that the people of that province ask for, and all that is required, is the construction of a pier at Carlton Point on the Prince Edward Island side. There is now a good pier at Cape Tormentine and a harbour sufficient to accommodate shipping, summer and winter. All that is necessary, therefore,

Mr. HACKETT.

is to construct this pier at Carlton Point, place suitable steamships on the route, and bring Prince Edward Island in direct communication with the railway system of Canada. This is quite a simple matter. When there are millions of money to be expended in other parts of the country, we should certainly have a small expenditure to afford to the people of Prince Edward Island that accommodation which they so much require. The government of Canada entered into a solemn compact with us to maintain this connection. They have not fulfilled those conditions, but to-day they are conferring a vast franchise and great privileges on a railway corporation, and expending a large amount of money in the interest of that corporation, so that it may become a question in the future as to whether the government of Canada, elected by the people of Canada, shall govern this country, or whether the country shall be governed by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company. I think it is an act of prudence on the part of a representative of Prince Edward Island to see that this company, as well as the government, are bound, in order that we may have one or the other to fall back upon. A petition containing thousands of names, was sent from Prince Edward Island to the government of Canada, asking for the construction of this pier at Carlton Point, but no attention has been paid to it. I asked the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries a few days ago if he intended to construct another steamship to maintain that communication which was guaranteed to us at the time of the union, and his answer was no, that they were not going to do anything of that kind. Therefore, I regard the present as the opportune moment to bind this company to do something to connect the province of Prince Edward Island with this great railway system, which is supposed to bind together the whole of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and to allow the people of the province to benefit to some extent from this large expenditure of public money. I trust, Mr. Speaker, that the amendment which I have moved will be accepted by the promoter of this Bill and by this hon. House.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend from West Prince has quoted me as having said that the government had nothing to do with this matter. I am sure he did not intend to convey an erroneous impression, but he did so. What I said on a previous occasion was that there was no provision in this Bill for the expenditure of a penny of public money, and therefore that we were not in a position to discuss in connection with it the question of government aid. It is not a government railway Bill; it is a private charter. My hon. friend desires that there shall be a railway built to connect Sackville with Cape Tormentine, and that this company shall