

Under the Railway Contract of 1898, the telegraph lines, which had cost the people of the Colony about one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, were handed over to R. G. Reid, and he was thus given a practical monopoly of the telegraph as a business medium.

The present Government took back those telegraph lines, thus restoring the entire confidence of the people in the service, which to-day is combined with the Postal service, and the public receives the benefit of a reduction of fifty per cent. on all messages transmitted within the Colony.

When we undertook the Government, there was no law under which the railway contractor could be held responsible for cattle which were destroyed by his trains. The present Government immediately passed an Act compelling the contractor either to fence the line of railway or pay for the cattle which might be destroyed by his trains.

It will be remembered that four years ago an attempt was made by the railway contractor to relieve himself from all responsibility for accidents or injury to his employees. The present Government immediately grappled with this condition of things by passing an Act rendering such an Agreement null and void.

The notorious Railway Deal of 1898 embraced the Bay Steam Service of the Colony and provided a scale of charges that weighed most heavily upon the travelling public and business community, hampering them materially in their movements and business, while at the same time no provision was made therein to meet the requirements of the people of the North-East Coast and that important section of the country between St. John's and Placentia.

The present Government, in order to remedy this condition of affairs, negotiated a contract for a Coastal Service, north and south, to be performed by steamers specially built for those services, having abundant freight and passenger accommodation, and being equipped with all modern appointments for the comfort of the travelling public. A scale of reasonable charges for passenger and freight traffic was also arranged, thus adding to the convenience of the travelling public, and facilitating trade. While this contract has secured a steam service never equalled in this colony, it has also been the means of reforming, in a great measure, the steam service conducted by the railway contractors, which, heretofore, was a source of continual annoyance to the public.

The present Government have extended the telegraph system to the Labrador, connecting the principal harbours, thus bringing the fishermen on that coast into touch with each other, enabling them to ascertain the movements of the fish on that coast, and to communicate speedily with their homes, or with St. John's.

The present Government, during the last four years, have erected **Eighteen Lighthouses and Five Fog Alarms**, for the protection of the lives and property of the fishermen, and for the development of the maritime commerce of the country, which is largely dependent on the perfection of its coast signals.