

same." He hoped that this return would also be brought down at an early date. He did not think that more than ten days, at the very outside, would be required to prepare the return. As he was desirous to prove a charge against the Post-office Inspector in Nova Scotia of a dereliction of duty in connection with this matter, he wished to have the papers presented as early as possible.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said he would call the attention of the Postmaster-General to the matter. He had sent to the Department for the papers asked for, and they had not been received. He presumed they were still with the Inspector.

The motion was agreed to.

COMMUNICATION WITH PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE moved:—
"That a humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying that he will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House, a return specifying:—

1st. The sums expended in repairing the steamship *Northern Light* during the year 1877.

2nd. The number of passages made by the said steamship between the ports of Georgetown in Prince Edward Island, and Pictou in Nova Scotia.

3rd. The number of mails received on board the said steamship and delivered up to the 14th instant.

4th. The number of mails which have been despatched for transmission by the said steamship, but have ultimately been transmitted by other means."

He said:—It has been my duty on several occasions to call the attention of this honorable House to other branches of this same subject. Upon those occasions I was applying for the fulfilment of certain terms of Confederation, which up to that period had not been carried out. I now come before the House to make a statement showing as briefly as I can that, although those terms have to a certain extent been fulfilled, they have not been attended with that success which might have been hoped for and expected. In making these remarks I must disclaim any intention of speaking in a spirit of hostility to the Government. I am aware that they and this Parliament have expended a large sum in fulfilling

Hon. Mr. Miller.

the terms of Union with Prince Edward Island; that a steamship has been built specially for the purpose of keeping open winter communication with Prince Edward Island; that it has been built according to the best modern ideas, and that large sums have been expended in repairing that vessel. I also say that under the circumstances, the Government were perhaps justified in making the experiment of carrying the mails between Georgetown, Prince Edward Island, and Pictou, Nova Scotia, inasmuch as those two ports were safe harbors. Georgetown at least had the reputation of being open to a very late period every winter. They also had the further advantage, that each port was the terminus of a railway. Therefore it was perhaps felt proper and justifiable that the Government should make a thorough experiment of the harbors of Georgetown and Pictou, in order to ascertain whether communication between the Province of Prince Edward Island and the mainland could be maintained there. We have now the experience of one entire winter, and part of another, and that experience certainly indicates very clearly that the position in which the *Northern Light* is now placed is not suitable for the purpose for which she was built and employed. I shall endeavour to show that other localities between Prince Edward Island and the mainland are better suited for this purpose than the place where she is now located. It may be necessary perhaps to give some personal experience on this point, because I do not wish to disparage the capacity of the *Northern Light* for the work for which she was built. I can say that I spent two or three days on board of her, and had a every reason to be satisfied with her performance, but at the commencement of this season the weather was so remarkably mild and open that she scarcely met with any greater difficulty than would be encountered in the summer; but towards the end of last month, on the first occurrence of cold weather, her course was beset with fields of ice packed in such a manner that she was unable to continue her passages. The hon. gentleman who will second this resolution (Hon. Mr. Montgomery) had some practical experience on board the vessel this season. I have had none. I think my hon. friend went on board on the 31st