

culties experienced by the engineers in that undertaking will help us in this matter, because we can profit by their experience. They know better now than ever they did before how to overcome difficulties of that kind. I stated that there were some good and sufficient reasons why the Local Governments and the Province as a whole did not unduly press their claims up to the present time. In the first place, it was an untried scheme. For the first year or two the Government only placed on the route a boat offered to them by some gentlemen in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, and she was found, after a year's trial, to be totally unfit for the service. Then the Dominion Government bought a steamer which was under construction at the time, intended, I think, for the winter navigation of the St. Lawrence. She was completed and called the "Northern Light" and placed on the route. The people gave them an opportunity to test the capabilities of that steamer and see if she could accomplish the work. She did good service, but it was demonstrated from the first that she did not fulfil the terms of Union and was not satisfactory on the whole. Then came the great undertaking of building the Canadian Pacific Railway, which taxed the resources of the Dominion, and we know that the Government of the day was handicapped and opposed by the great monopolies of the world. It took men of great minds and strong resolution to overcome all the difficulties they had to face in building that railway, and it would have been ungenerous on the part of the Island to press their claims on the Government while their hands were full with an important work. Then, when the railway was completed, they had another difficulty almost as great, the rebellion in the North-West. During that time the Island did not press on the Government the claims of the Province in this regard, but in 1881 they began to agitate this question. They brought it to the notice of the Dominion Government by an Address passed by both branches of the Legislature in the Session of 1881, which was acknowledged by the Dominion Government. They did not promise to undertake the work, they did not ask that a tunnel should be built or that a better steamer should be put on the route, but simply that the terms of Union

should be carried out. In response to that address the Government of Prince Edward Island received the following reply, dated the 16th of April, 1881:—

"OTTAWA, 16th April, 1881.

"SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 7th instant, enclosing a Joint Address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island, in reference to the establishment and maintenance of steam service for the conveyance of mails and passengers between that Province and the mainland.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"EDOUARD J. LANGEVIN,
"Under Secretary of State."

The next step taken by the Government of Prince Edward Island was to cause a despatch to be sent by the Lieutenant Governor of that Province, dated the 28th February, 1882, calling the attention of the Dominion Government to the address that had been passed by the Legislature of the Province the previous Session, which was acknowledged on the 8th of March, 1882, in the following words:—

"OTTAWA, 8th March, 1882.

"SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 9, of the 28th ultimo, requesting a reply to the Joint Address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island, passed during their last Session, respecting continuous communication between that Province and the Mainland Provinces of the Dominion.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"EDOUARD J. LANGEVIN,
"Under Secretary of State."

Next came on the 31st January, 1883, a minute of the Executive Council, the last clause of which I will read, showing that the Island Government were fully alive to the rights of that Province to a fulfilment of the terms of Union. The last clause is as follows:—

"The Council in Committee feel that the Government of Canada are justly chargeable with a most serious violation of the terms of Union in this respect; they desire, once more, to bring the matter prominently before Your Excellency in Council, with the earnest hope that the ensuing Session of Parliament will not be allowed to pass without the adoption of effective measures for the immediate fulfilment of the Terms of Confederation; they request that they may be furnished with a reply to the Address of the Council and Assembly herein referred to, as well as to this Minute, in sufficient time to submit the same to the Legislature of this Province, at the approaching session thereof. Should the Dominion Government fail to comply with the just request of this Province, its Government will be reluctantly compelled to lay the grievances complained of at the foot of the Throne, and to appeal for redress to Her Majesty the Queen, as one of the parties to the Articles of Confederation."