

so vast importance to the island as this, he cannot divest himself of his partisanship. If there is any question on which we ought to get rid of our party feelings it is this, for we cannot expect, while we are divided in this way, to accomplish anything of importance. The hon. gentleman said nothing has been done. Why, \$130,000 or \$140,000 have been expended in building the Cape Traverse Railway. Boathouses have also been built, of which he admitted the great convenience and accommodation afforded by them. He knows further that this last year the Government, acting on the recommendation of the committee in 1883, took that service over. Instead of letting it by contract as formerly, they organised it as a Government service, at the cost of a large addition of public money, but enhancing the value of the service to the people by securing them their mails with much greater readiness. I am astonished that the hon. gentleman will not give credit to the Government for doing that much. The other recommendations made by the committee have been acted upon. In fact, it was only in 1883, after this committee had reported, that any practical results could be accomplished. Before that the people of the island themselves were divided in their opinion. One section desired communication between Georgetown and Pictou, others desired it to start from the Cape, and others from Charlottetown; and in 1882 the hon. gentleman himself declared he had not made up his mind as to which scheme should be adopted. But after the committee of 1883 had reported, the Government acted upon some of their recommendations; as I have already shown. They took over the service, and made a Government service of it; they increased the number of boats and the number of men employed; they built five new boats and placed them on the route; they built boathouses; they provided also rowboats, but these boats did not come up to the expectation of hon. gentlemen who recommended them. The committee, however, arrived at the conclusion that it was impossible to construct any steamer which could keep up continuous communication, so that the Government cannot literally fulfil the terms of the union unless they adopt the scheme so ably advocated by Senator Howland. I may here refer to a matter, which, though only a local one, is considered of great importance to the island, and is at present the subject of correspondence in the newspapers. The gentleman there, who kept up the service between the island and the mainland for the last 30 years, expected he would be placed in charge of the Government service when the Government took it over. He had carried on the service very efficiently. Of course he was a contractor under the Government, and received a certain amount for each trip, but he kept the service up under great difficulties and danger, to the satisfaction of the people, and he thought, being still in the prime of life, active and having experience which no other man in the country could have, he would be placed in charge of that service. But the Government, acting, no doubt, as they thought, wisely, sent down an officer of their own. Last year, a very serious accident occurred at a crossing there, which became the subject of enquiry by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. The Department sent down one of their own officers, Captain McElhinney, to enquire closely into the causes of the accident. He examined the parties and reported to the Minister. I do not know whether his reports were confidential or not, but he made certain recommendations, and the Department considered that, as he was down there enquiring into these charges, he was best qualified to organise a Government service. I do not think it was the intention of the Government that he should remain longer than necessary to organise the service. I fully agree with the hon. Minister that it was a proper and businesslike course to adopt to entrust the captain with the organisation of the service, but after the service had been organised and his recommendations carried into effect, it was only right that

the gentleman, who for so many years had kept up communication, should be placed in charge of the service. Owing, however, to some lack of discretion on his part, I understand the Minister could not appoint him, and the matter is at present engaging the attention of the people of the island. This service requires great judgment and great experience. It is not an ordinary service; it is an extraordinary service; and no man can undertake to faithfully and efficiently carry it out without great experience in this matter; and although the service has been very efficiently performed this year, and the mails have been carried with greater regularity, still the season has been a very favorable one, and, if any obstacle had been thrown in the way, the service might not have been so efficiently performed, and if any accident had taken place it would have been felt that the gentleman who kept up the service so many years should have been still in charge of it. I trust Mr. Irvine, to whom I allude, will be placed in charge of the service in a short time. There is not a man in the country, from one end to the other, who is better qualified to carry on that service, and he is one of our own people. The man who was there last season is, no doubt, a very good official and a very good man, and he has enforced very good rules there, and the service has been very faithfully carried out, but he is a permanent official here, and I think he is required in the Department, and that he should be kept here, and should allow the service on the island to be taken charge of by gentlemen of greater experience. The hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies) said the island Legislature had passed a resolution stating that, unless the terms of Union were fulfilled, they would dissolve the Union. That is not the fact. The Legislature passed no such resolution. The people of the island and the Legislature are determined to have the terms of Union fulfilled, but they have no desire to dissolve the Union. They are a loyal people. They entered the Union in good faith, and they intend to remain in the Union if they can get fair play, and no man in the island has yet been bold enough to propose to dissolve the Union. They carried their grievance to the foot of the Throne, and they are anxiously waiting to ascertain the results of the delegation to England. The hon. gentleman says it was an ill-advised move. I say it was not an ill-advised move. I do not see that the Legislature could do anything else. They have memorialised the Dominion Government, they have sent their addresses to the Queen, and they felt it to be their duty to proceed to England and lay their grievance at the foot of the Throne; and our only hope is that the intervention of the Imperial Government will be such that their influence with the present Dominion Government, who, as I said before, have been expending money, to some extent, in the right direction there, will cause the terms of Union to be fulfilled between the island and the mainland. The hon. gentleman has referred to a speech made in another place by the leader of the House there. I do not know that the hon. the leader of that House fully considered his statement on that occasion. When he said that the Government had already, as far as they could, kept faith with the island, he made a great mistake. The Government have not fulfilled the terms as far as they possibly could. A great deal more could be done, and I hope that opinion is not entertained by the majority of the members of the Government; because, if it is, and if they believe that faith has been kept with the island, the people of the island know that faith has not been kept with them, and they are agitating for their rights and privileges guaranteed to them at the time of Confederation. Although the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davies) speaks very lightly of the present Government, I have the fullest confidence that there is no man in the country who has a better intention or desire to carry out the terms of Union