

with the Intercolonial, and to have that service constantly maintained this will enable the Government to carry out not only the letter but the spirit of the terms of Union. I believe that the contract has been fulfilled to a certain extent as to the letter, but not perhaps as to the spirit of the terms of the Union. In having this project carried out, both the spirit and the letter will be fulfilled, and the Prince Edward Islanders would greatly benefit by it, because the result would be to enhance the value of their crops and produce by at least 25 per cent. Moreover, it would give satisfaction to a very interesting Province of the Dominion, which is a very desirable object to attain. I believe, therefore, that the Government should send competent engineers to examine and report upon the several schemes submitted for the keeping of constant communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—It seems to me that the proposal which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Poirier) has put before the House is not the one of which notice had been given, and I also think that the inhabitants of King's county would find it very inconvenient to send their produce to the markets of Nova Scotia by such a roundabout route. They would have to convey it first the length of the Island, then carry it across the Strait, and then take it eastward again to the markets on the mainland. That would at once set them against the scheme which the hon. gentleman has been advocating. If it were a case of shipping eggs and other produce in the spring of the year, when prices are high, it might be better to take them by the proposed route; but as an ordinary matter of commerce, I cannot think that it would be for the advantage of the people of King's county to depend solely upon the means of communication which the hon. gentleman has described in his speech. I think that the interests of Prince Edward Island are decidedly looking up at present. We have an excellent steamship performing her duties in a manner which we scarcely expected she could perform them, and although it is undoubtedly the case that she has had the advantage these two winters past of unusually moderate seasons, with very little accumulation of pack ice on the

Nova Scotian shores, not having that great obstacle to contend against, she has been able to perform her winter service for these two winters past in a very satisfactory manner. But I quite agree with the statement that the hon. gentleman from Alberton made, to the effect that we cannot judge of all seasons by the two which have just passed by. They have been unusually mild, and with very little accumulations of ice. Consequently, they were very favorable for the operations of that ship, but we cannot expect that to be the case always. It is therefore necessary, in taking into consideration this important question of permanent winter communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland, that means should be found which could be depended upon under all circumstances. My hon. friend certainly deserves great credit for the persistency with which he has advocated his subway scheme. When I first saw his model in one of the rooms of this Senate I certainly entertained serious doubts whether such a subway as that could ever answer the purpose intended, but it has since been improved upon in a way that leaves scarcely any difference between what is known as a subway and what is known as a tunnel. In fact, during his speech the hon. gentleman spoke of it indifferently as a subway or tunnel. He gave us a definition of what a subway was and what a tunnel was—that one lay on the surface only partially buried, and the other was entirely buried in the subsoil of any river or creek across which it was to go. The course the hon. gentleman has taken now is pretty nearly the same that I ventured to advocate when he first brought that question before this House, when the present Governor of Ontario was the leader of the Senate, and I certainly was not supported—I will not put it more harshly—by the leader of the Government. He said, in emphatic terms, that the Government would not undertake to assist this project in any way whatever. I told him I considered it was the duty of the Government to ascertain by a proper investigation by experts whether the scheme promulgated by my hon. friend from Alberton was practicable or not, and if it was reported to be feasible at any reasonable cost it was the duty of the Government, standing, as they did, pledged to establish daily steam communication between Prince Ed-