

shape it is everything that is desired. The "Stanley" can go inside the pier if she desires, but I would like to remind the hon. gentleman, when he says the "Stanley" or any other steamer could not find a safe berth there in winter time, that in winter there is not the slightest necessity for the "Stanley" or any other steamer going inside the pier. They have the bord ice for at least a mile outside of the pier, and the steamer "Stanley" could make her way through the bord ice up to the pier.

Hon. Mr. SNOWBALL—This bord ice is in the habit of shifting.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—It never shifts.

Hon. Mr. SNOWBALL—She cannot get in when it is formed.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—But once it is formed it is a perfect protection, and there would be no necessity to go inside the pier. She could lie outside, where there is 25 feet of water. The hon. gentleman remarked that the fact that nothing had been done in the past proved that this route was impracticable. I think that certainly more active measures should have been taken by the late government than were taken to test the feasibility of this route. I expressed my opinion on that subject, and I have often expressed my opinion in the other chamber, and urged upon the late government to take some active measures to test the feasibility of this route. I would do the same now with the present government. I should like to say, in corroboration of what was said by my hon. friend who moved this address, that I believe it is utterly useless to attempt to accomplish anything unless a suitable boat is obtained. The mover of this address referred to the steamer "Petrel" and the want of success that attended that experiment. It certainly was not a successful experiment, and the steamer "Petrel" was in no way suited for the service. I believe, however, that the result of the "Petrel's" staying there last winter has been to convince the officers who were in command of her that if they had had a suitable steamer they could have done good service there and made regular crossings. This is, of course, one of the most difficult services in the Dominion, and it is utterly useless to attempt to make it a success with a weak or insuffi-

cient steamer. If the government are in earnest in endeavouring to establish communication there it is absolutely necessary that a suitable steamer, with sufficient power to contend with the difficulties of navigation, should be placed upon the route. I do not hesitate to express it as my opinion that if a suitable steamer were placed upon the route it would prove an entire success.

The motion was agreed to.

MAJOR WALSH'S EXPEDITION.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY rose to :

Ask the government if it is true that Major Walsh was allowed to go to the Yukon district short of provisions, so that he has had to pay one dollar per pound for poor beef as reported in the press.

He said: I do not desire at this time to make any remarks with reference to the motion I have on the paper further than to say that I noticed, and I dare say other members of the Senate have noticed a very startling report in the newspapers the other day to the effect that Major Walsh had bought nearly 13,000 pounds of poor beef at \$1 per pound and not knowing whether that statement was accurate or not, I have taken this method of getting correct information.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Mr. Walsh took with him ample provisions and he keeps always on hand provisions for at least six months. Major Walsh may have made some purchases, I cannot say whether that is so or not—for persons who were short of provisions and in danger of starvation, but so far as his force is concerned, he has ample supplies on hand.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Then the hon. gentleman does not know whether the statement made in the press, that he paid a dollar a pound for poor beef, is correct or not.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I do not know, but I do not believe it. We have not had any communication recently. I do not believe it had been open for anybody to receive such information.

The Senate adjourned.