

Amount claimed to have been expended	-	-	-	\$951,698
Deduct for Cape Tormentine Pier, not expended	-	-	\$150,000	
Allow one-half paid as subsidy to Cape Tormentine Branch Railway, and deduct balance	-	-	108,400	
Deduct half of summer mail and ice-boat service	-	-	196,073	
Deduct for Cape Traverse Pier	-	-	12,400	
Deduct cable service	-	-	23,372	
			<hr/>	\$490,245
Leaving	-	-	-	<hr/> \$461,453

as the amount *actually expended* within the last 12 years to meet the wishes of the Island, and to give improved means of communication with the mainland.

In the foregoing pages the undersigned have endeavoured to show, and, as they consider, have clearly established—

(1.) That the Dominion Government voluntarily, and without any solicitation on the part of the Island, covenanted to provide continuous communication, by efficient steam service, winter and summer, between the Island and the mainland; that this engagement they have entirely failed to carry out. Further, that the Dominion Government have never, up to the present winter, provided in any manner for the transport of passengers, when obliged to resort to the Capes route, where they have not even attempted the use of steamers; that they have failed to carry out the promises made by their Ministers to the representatives of the Island; and, generally, that they have displayed great inactivity and reluctance to improve such communication as has been afforded.

(2.) That the Committee of Council have erred in representing that the Dominion expenditures exceed by more than three times the amount received from the Island, the undersigned having plainly demonstrated, as they believe, that the Island contributes to the Dominion Exchequer an amount far in excess of what is expended.

(3.) That the amount which the Committee of Council claim to have been expended by the Dominion Government in the improvement of the means of communication with the mainland is largely in excess of the sum actually paid therefor.

Referring to other points, the Committee of Council state that “since the Union, a subsidy of \$10,000 a year has been paid by the Dominion Government to the Prince Edward Island Steam Navigation Company, to run steamers daily during the season of open navigation, from Shediac in New Brunswick to Summerside on the Island, and from Pictou in Nova Scotia to Charlottetown and Georgetown.” The undersigned desire to correct a misapprehension under which the Committee of Council seem to labour, that daily communication exists between Nova Scotia and the Island. This is not the case, as the steamers connect with Pictou only four times a week. Lest it might be inferred that the payment of \$10,000 a year for this service was under a recent agreement entered into by the Dominion Government with the Steam Navigation Company, the undersigned desire to say that such agreement was made by the Island Government previous to Confederation, and the Dominion, in now paying that amount, is only carrying out that agreement.

The statement of the Committee of Council that “previous to the Union paddle-wheel steamers were employed” might lead to the supposition that since then the Dominion Government have obtained the substitution of screw-steamers. The undersigned desire to say that the identical boats which plied on the route for nearly 10 years previous to the Union are still the only ones employed in that service.

Adverting to the report of the Committee of Parliament in 1883, upon the best means of improving the communication between the Island and the mainland, the undersigned find that many recommendations were made, upon which they desire to offer some remarks.

That Committee recommended that the crossing at the Capes should be undertaken by the Government rather than let by contract, yet this suggestion was not acted upon until the present winter.

In regard to the ice-boat service at the Capes, the Committee of Parliament recommended that stations for observation and signal service should be adopted for the guidance of the boats while crossing. No such stations have been provided.

The Committee of Parliament also stated it as their opinion, from the evidence before them, that a small screw-steamer could be used during a considerable portion of the winter in connexion with the ice-boats, and could be safely docked in the board ice when not at work, and they recommended the Government to take measures to test, by actual experiment, the feasibility of this project. No such steamer has