

to the Island Government. They were accepted by the Island Government, and although an hon. gentleman has chosen to reflect somewhat on the hon. gentleman from Charlottetown, the fact is that this particular provision in the terms of union was accepted by both parties in Prince Edward Island. The idea of a subway never occurred to any of the parties, for the simple reason that at that time such structures were unknown—unknown at least to all the parties to this arrangement, and the first time that a proposal for a subway came before Parliament, or before the public in any way, was at the instance of the hon. gentleman from Alberton. The terms of union, as understood by both parties, were that an efficient steamer should ply between Prince Edward Island and the mainland. The hon. gentleman has spoken of the early efforts in this direction as being ineffectual. Then came the "Northern Light." She was better than the vessels that had gone before her; but after a while it was felt by the people of Prince Edward Island that the accommodation afforded by her was not satisfactory, and this dissatisfaction found expression in the various documents read by the hon. gentleman from Murray Harbor and in some read by the hon. gentleman from Alberton. While the "Northern Light" was still running, the hon. gentleman from Alberton brought before this Chamber his proposal for a subway; and up to that date I do not think it had ever been suggested by any one that communication with the mainland should be by a subway or tunnel. The hon. gentleman from Alberton, I think, deserves a great deal of credit for the persistence with which he has brought this matter before the public, before the Government, and before this House; and I am glad to see that he continues to bring it here. Since the hon. gentleman has agitated the subway question another steamer has been put on the route which, I understand, is more efficient than the "Northern Light," but which is not quite satisfactory to the people of Prince Edward Island. But while it is perfectly true that the hon. gentleman from Alberton has done his best to see this subway—I rather think from the way he speaks to-day he is not so clear about the subway, and thinks that a tunnel might be better—constructed, I do not think that it is fair that the efforts of

the hon. gentleman from Charlottetown should be ignored. That hon. gentleman, ever since I have had the honor of a seat in this House, has brought up nearly every session the question of the improvement of communication with Prince Edward Island, and the memorial which he submitted to the Committee of the other House some years ago contained as much valuable information as any other document submitted by any one individual. No fault can be found with any of the gentlemen from Prince Edward Island; and I think it is, to say the least, somewhat ungenerous for the hon. gentleman from Murray Harbor to endeavor to reflect upon the conduct of the hon. gentleman from Charlottetown. The reflection is quite undeserved. Having said so much on the history of the question, I wish to say a few words as to my own views of the duty of the Dominion Government. I do not say that the Government have not complied with the terms of Union. That is possibly a debatable question. Prince Edward Island people think that the Dominion Government have not complied with the terms of Union, and the Dominion Government think they have—that they have done all that could be expected to establish a reasonable communication by water, and that that was all they were bound to do. But I think, apart altogether from the terms of Union, it is the duty of the Dominion Government to give to the people of Prince Edward Island the best means of communication with the mainland that can be afforded at a reasonable cost.

HON. MR. PROWSE—What is a reasonable cost?

HON. MR. POWER—My opinion as to what is a reasonable cost may not be the opinion of the majority of this House, and it may not be the opinion of the Government; but I shall select one criterion: The Dominion Parliament a little while ago voted a sum of something over \$3,000,000 for the purpose of constructing an entirely useless work across the Isthmus of Chignecto—a work that was not asked for by any considerable number of persons—and I think it would certainly not be unreasonable for the Dominion Government to spend at least as large a sum in securing a communication with the 125,000 inhabitants of Prince Edward Island as they expended.