

tion as a failure and an imposition on the public. The moment, however, they came into office, she ceased performing the same amount of work, and let me say that the present Government have made no improvement upon the *Northern Light* in the nine or ten years they have been in power. True, they built a branch railway to Cape Traverse, a distance of ten or eleven miles, but when the passengers get to Cape Traverse they have to be strapped themselves to boats and get across in that way nine or ten miles over very rough ice, and at times through the water. A few days ago I had to cross, and it took me six hours to reach the other side. That is no small amount of labor. I would like to see some hon. gentlemen, some of those knights of the order, cross there in that way, and see how they would like it. It is also true that we were promised a subway, perhaps not very directly, but indirectly, and, if I understood aright, though I had not the honor of a seat here last Session, a Bill passed both Houses of this Legislature incorporating a company to construct that subway. So far, the operation of that Act is a failure, it is a dead letter. It is true that on the eve of the election, I think five or six days before the election, a gentleman who is well known in this community, Senator Howland, attended several meetings and read a letter which he said was written by the First Minister. At all events it bore the signature "John A. Macdonald," and that letter stated that, if the engineers showed that the work would not cost more than \$5,000,000, the First Minister was prepared to ask Parliament to place in the estimates a sum of \$5,000,000 to build that work. Whether that was intended to catch votes or not I do not know. At all events, it had not the effect of catching the votes. We talk about Ireland being dissatisfied, but I tell the Government and this House that the people of Prince Edward Island are dissatisfied, and the result of the election shows it. They have not been dealt with fairly, and until that subway is built or until the terms of Confederation are carried out, the people of Prince Edward Island are not to be considered in the Confederation; we are not united to Canada; we are disunited. The proper means of crossing over the ten miles of water which separates Prince Edward Island from the mainland are not provided for in the winter. It is well known that the people of the Island have complied with all the terms of Confederation as far as they are concerned, and, perhaps, a little more, in this way that, when we came into Confederation, we were told that the tariff would not exceed 15 per cent., and it exceeds that 15 per cent. by 50 per cent., and perhaps a little more. In that way we have probably paid over 100 per cent. to the Dominion of Canada more than Prince Edward Island is actually getting. The neglect to carry out the terms of Confederation by keeping up this continuous communication is a great drawback to the people of Prince Edward Island, because during the winter our speculating men are not able to take advantage of the outside market. We may have pork, or fresh fish in the article of smelts, to sell in the market, but we cannot do it. It was plainly shown by the papers which were laid before the Imperial Parliament, last winter, by the delegates from Prince Edward Island, that the year before sixty days elapsed without our having steam communication between the Island and the mainland. Is not that a great drawback? And then there are perhaps two months of communication only by small open boats which cross at the capes, and, therefore, it is impossible for our speculating men to get any article of produce to the market, while our merchants have to import very largely in the fall and pay a large amount of interest on the goods they import, and they must put an additional price on those goods which the consumer has to pay. That is one great reason why Prince Edward Island is dissatisfied. I hope and trust that the Government will take up this question

fairly and properly, and will have another survey made. There was a survey last year, and I do not know whether there was any report made as to the result, whether it was said to be practicable or not, but I hope that the Government will during this summer have another survey, and that before long the Government will be able to pronounce whether it is practicable, and whether they are prepared or not to build this subway. If they are not prepared to carry out the terms of Confederation, the people of Prince Edward Island will consider themselves clear of Confederation, they will consider that they are not united with the mainland, and that the Government of the Dominion have failed to carry out their contract. When one party to a contract fails to carry out its terms, the contract is broken. I do not wish to be understood in the sense that there is any feeling of secession in Prince Edward Island, but there is a great feeling of discontent. The people of Prince Edward Island think the Government have not honestly and sincerely tried to carry out the terms of Confederation, although we have been made to pay a large part of the revenue. If we are one-fortieth part of the population, I suppose we should be considered as paying one-fortieth part of the revenue, and in that case we pay \$800,000 a year. We do not receive \$450,000, so that shows a balance due to the Island of something like \$350,000 a year since the present tariff came into force. The people of Prince Edward Island know that, and they know that every dollar they have to make costs about 50 per cent. more than it does in the Province of Ontario or in the western part of Quebec. That is why our people are so much dissatisfied. I do not intend to occupy the time of the House at any length on this question, because it will come up again, and I hope that, when the people of the Island ask the Government to have a commission appointed to take up the whole question between the Government of Canada and the Government of Prince Edward Island, they will consent to it. Last winter, when the joint resolution of both branches of the Legislature of Prince Edward Island came up here, I remember that the Government appointed a sub-committee to enquire into this matter, and that sub-committee, I think, was composed of Sir Alexander Campbell, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Their report was very meagre; it was very unfavorable, it was very inconsiderate; and, more than that, the Government of Canada endorsed their report, and I am sorry to say they have acted upon that report, and I believe they are acting upon it. It appears to me as if they were taking no step whatever towards carrying out the terms of Confederation. Will I be told that, after nine or ten years of experience of the working of the *Northern Light*, they were not able to get any steamer built to do better work, or even, if necessary, were not able to put two steamers on in order to carry out the terms of Confederation with that portion of the Dominion which is called Prince Edward Island?

Motion agreed to.

POST OFFICE AT MONTMAGNY.

Mr. CHOQUETTE moved for:

Copies of all papers, documents, correspondence, &c., in relation to the building of a post office in the town of Montmagny, in the county of Montmagny.

He said: (Translation) Mr. Speaker. I make the demand for the papers mentioned in this motion in order to find out whether any promise has been made by the Government in relation to the building of a post office in the town of Montmagny. The hon. Minister of Public Works, the other day, answered a question put by me in this House, by saying that it was not the intention of the Government to put a sum of money in the Estimates for the building of a post office at Montmagny. Now, Mr. Speaker, this was previously put before the House,