

mit a province to come into this confederation, we permit it to come in on such terms as this House deems proper and equitable. It was so with the other provinces, and, I presume, will be so with the provinces that are to come in. Mr. Speaker, I only rise to protest against interjections and interruptions by hon. members such as those of the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) who seeks both by his voice in this House and by the newspaper, which, fortunately or unfortunately, he controls, an inflammatory condition of indignation in the country. I think that, when the Bill is before us and when discussion is proper, then the hon. member for South York can enter any protest he sees fit. But, until that time, it is much better for the House and the country that we should remain silent on the subject.

Motion (Mr. W. F. Maclean) to adjourn, negatived.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH P.E.I.— SNOW BLOCKADE IN MARITIME PROVINCES—DELAY OF MAILS.

Mr. A. A. LEFURGEY (Prince, P.E.I.). Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the attention of the Postmaster General (Sir William Mulock) through the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to the condition of the mail service in Prince Edward Island. I received on Saturday a despatch from a resident of Tignish saying that, in answer to communications addressed to the postmaster of Charlottetown they have received absolutely no information as to the carriage of the mails, and the people throughout the district have now undertaken the service themselves, and the mails have been started by sleighs sent out by private individuals. It seems to me that this is very unsatisfactory, and, I should think, an illegal method of handling the public mails of this country. I will ask the right hon. First Minister to bring this subject to the attention of the Postmaster General and have some inquiry made into it. And, if the train service is so blocked that the mails cannot be brought through by the trains a service should be established by means of sleighs under official auspices, so that His Majesty's mails may not be entrusted to private individuals as they have been.

Hon. RAYMOND PREFONTAINE (Minister of Marine and Fisheries). I beg leave to communicate to the House a despatch I have just received:

Charlottetown, P.E.I., 27th Feb.

Steamers last crossing twenty-fourth ultimo, ice blockade still continues: tried dynamite Pictou barrier Saturday, found useless; 'Stanley' unable to get past Cape Bear. No crossing at Capes since twenty-third instant. Boats cannot overcome lolly, broken ice and deep snow; railway blocked for two weeks.

A. LORD,
Agent.

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals). Apropos the subject raised by my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island (Mr. Lefurgey), I beg to inform the House and the country that the snow-blockade which has for some time existed on the Intercolonial—or that portion of it in the province of Nova Scotia—has been raised. I had communications to-day stating that the trains are now moving in and out of Halifax, and also between Sydney and Truro—so that the road is completely free. The Dominion Atlantic line which is the line running between Halifax and Yarmouth, had been closed for a week or ten days. Even the highways are entirely impassable. With the assistance of the Intercolonial and the using of the appliances of that road, the Dominion Atlantic has been opened up, and trains are now running over it. The blockade, of course has been a very great drawback to the business interests of the maritime provinces. Regretful for the past, I shall endeavour to make such arrangements as are possible with the clerk of the weather to prevent a repetition of such a stoppage of Intercolonial trains.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES (King's, P.E.I.). In reference to the question raised by the hon. member for Prince (Mr. Lefurgey), I might say that I made representations to the Post Office Department some time ago and was informed that the postmaster at Charlottetown had full power to employ teams to convey the mails when the trains were stalled—full powers to have the mails brought through by any means he thought advisable in the public interest. I have no doubt at all that the postmaster at Charlottetown is using the power entrusted to him to the best of his judgment and ability.

Mr. LEFURGEY. I do not wish to make this a subject of controversy. But, as I have a message from a resident of Tignish, I might read that to the House, and possibly it may satisfy hon. gentlemen as to my position:

Tignish, P.E.I., Feb. 25.

A. A. Lefurgey, M.P.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Mails started by private individuals without notice. Wheat insolently answers. No explanation. Bring up demoralization before orders of day. Agnew wired Yeo to-day.

So, it would appear that the postmaster at Charlottetown had been appealed to in the matter and the people had received no satisfactory explanation of his conduct, and consequently had to use conveyances of private individuals to deliver the mails.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

Mr. HAGGART. I would ask the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) when the Bills establishing the provinces