

Alert, and was very glad to hear that contradicted by somebody who professes to know, because I wish to express as strongly as I can my disapprobation of such a course. I have heard it rumored since that the department are about to call for tenders for the construction of a larger and better boat to supplement the *Northern Light*. I hope that rumor is true. I was in hopes we would have had an official statement made to-night by the hon. the Minister of Marine, because after the plain, practical and convincing statements made by my hon. friend, based as they are upon historical facts and upon the declaration made by the High Commissioner to Earl Granville as to the intention of the Government, and upon the suggestion which Earl Granville made to this Government, I hoped we would have heard to-night what the policy of the Government is. I think my hon. friend has made out a complete case, and has put the House in full possession of the facts, and I do think our long-suffering people are entitled to have their grievances in this very serious matter removed. We have been year after year pressing this matter, and I am sure the House does not want me to go over the old story, and I am not going to do it again to-night, because my hon. friend has anticipated me and has put the points better than I could, but I do hope to have some assurance from the Minister in reference to that wharf, and, if he can give it in the absence of the Minister of Marine, some information as to the action of the Department of Marine in reference to the construction of another steamboat.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I was about to rise just now, when I saw the hon. gentleman wished to say a few words, and I thought it better he should speak first so that I might answer both gentlemen—the mover of the resolution (Mr. Perry) and the member for Queen's (Mr. Davies)—at the same time. In answer to the last question of the hon. gentleman, I may say that the contract for the wharf or pier at Cape Tormentine was broken by the Government because the contractor did not proceed with the work quickly and evidently could not go on. Under those circumstances we called for new tenders, and have given a new contract. The contract has been signed, and I understand that the contractors are men who are quite able to perform the work, which will be proceeded with with all due vigor.

Mr. DAVIES (P. E. I.) Will the hon. gentleman state who they are?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I do not remember now. When the Estimates come on, I shall be able to give the names. As to the boat, I cannot positively say, but, as far as I recollect, the intention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is to provide a new boat. In reference to the remarks of the mover of the motion, I may say, first, that there will be no objection to bring down the papers, and second, that the survey made in 1886 was communicated to the House and hon. gentlemen know what was the result of that survey. The hon. gentleman complains that no work has been done in the direction of constructing a subway. I do not suppose he expected that we would proceed in that way. He knew, and I think the hon. gentleman who spoke last stated, that the Minister of Finance had made a statement that we would give our attention to that work, and that we would have new explorations made to see whether the work was a feasible one or not. Well, I am glad to say that the last survey, which was made in July and August, 1887, has given a much better result than the first survey of 1886, and, if we go on in that way, improving all the time, we shall find the distance very small.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) By the next election.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I did not say that. The hon. gentleman says so, and I am glad to hear him fix a
Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.)

date, because the Government of course will thus know the wishes of hon. gentlemen on the other side. The engineer in the month of August took a series of borings in a line from Carleton Point to a point in New Brunswick, I think Munsey Point. The greatest depth of water found is ninety-one feet, the bottom is more favorable than on the line of soundings taken in 1886, and the distance is six and a half miles, which is one and a half miles less than on the line of borings taken in 1886. This shows that, as I said, if we go on in that way, we shall find the distance very small, and I think that in any case this result is much more favorable and must please hon. gentlemen so far, at all events, as the survey goes, as it shows that, if the matter has been left over for a year to obtain new soundings and new measurements, the time has not been lost in vain, that we have obtained a much better line by this survey than we had in 1886. I have no objection to the granting of the motion.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I would like to be permitted to ask the hon. gentleman whether the result of the survey has been so satisfactory as to induce him to believe it to be right and proper that he should propose a subsidy or a vote to the House to carry the work out, either by means of a company or by Government contract?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am afraid that is a question which I cannot answer immediately. I think it is one of those questions that must be left to the consideration of the Government, and the hon. gentleman may be sure, after the surveys which we have made, that the Government will give to the matter their best consideration.

Mr. DAVIES (P. E. I.) I fear we cannot hope for anything in the supplementaries?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. That is a pleasure left for the hon. gentleman to discover.

Mr. ROBERTSON. Have the Government any offers from any company to build a subway for any particular sum?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am not aware. There may have been some offer of that kind in the Railway Department, but I am not in a position to answer that definitely.

Motion agreed to.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND CONFEDERATION.

Mr. LAURIER moved for:

Copies of all correspondence exchanged between the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland concerning the admission of Newfoundland into the Confederation.

He said: I have no intention to comment on the subject at this moment. My only object is to have as soon as possible before the House the papers on that important question.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I hope the hon. gentleman will not insist upon his motion after what I shall say. This matter is now engaging the attention of the Government, and, as the hon. gentleman will see from the newspapers that a delegation is coming to Canada about this matter, we think the public interest would not allow us to lay this correspondence now before Parliament.

Mr. LAURIER. If I understand from the hon. gentleman that the correspondence is still going on, that it is not yet in a fit condition to be published, I will not press my motion.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It is not.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The Minister, I suppose, has no objections to inform us when he expects the