

Mr. DURANLEAU: About the first of April last, for a period of two years. The contract is to run this year and next year.

Mr. POWER: Without putting a question on the order paper, would the minister undertake to let me have a copy of the contract at some time in the near future?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Yes, I shall do that.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): For what time is the contract with the Pacific Salvage Company?

Mr. DURANLEAU: The contract with the Pacific Salvage Company will expire in 1935; I think it is a contract for ten years.

Mr. QUINN: Mr. Chairman, I protest again against this item in the estimates. The government is economizing in every branch of every department, and I consider this is an unnecessary expenditure. There are wrecking companies in the maritime provinces who, when they undertake to do any wrecking or salvaging, have to go out and take their chances. I do not see why wrecking companies in the provinces of Quebec and British Columbia should be subsidized when companies in the maritime provinces have to carry on without any government assistance. Every year when this item has been called I have protested, and I protest again to-day.

Mr. DURANLEAU: As I have already told this committee, the subsidies paid to these two companies were cut by \$30,000 last year. But we felt that we had to pay those subsidies in order to maintain on the Pacific coast and in the St. Lawrence a first class service. We had proof that the companies were operating at a loss, and could not give further service if they had not been paid that subsidy. I think my hon. friend will admit that the St. Lawrence, which is navigable for nearly one thousand miles from the gulf to Montreal, is a difficult river to navigate, and we had to secure the best service possible.

Mr. NEILL: This vote ought to be supported by all British Columbia members. I do not know about the conditions on the Atlantic, but if we had not this vote on the Pacific we would have no wrecking plant at all. It is very necessary.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Do we understand that if we have a wrecking plant at Quebec it is because the accidents on the St. Lawrence river are so few that no private company could afford to operate there; and that in the maritimes accidents are so numerous that they justify the incorporation of private companies?

Mr. PLUNKETT: There is only one efficient company on the Pacific coast. If this subsidy is eliminated it will certainly curtail the service, and anyone who lives by British Columbia waters knows of the many dangers and the numerous wrecks occurring there every year. I think it would be a great mistake if this item should ever be eliminated. I am sorry it is not much larger.

Item agreed to.

Miscellaneous and unforeseen expenses, \$9,000.

An hon. MEMBER: What are the unforeseen expenditures?

Mr. DURANLEAU: It is to provide for miscellaneous items that cannot be anticipated or provided for elsewhere, such as criminal investigations, legal expenses, arbitration proceedings, advice and assistance of experts, damages, supplies for shipping masters, and other things of like nature. Take for instance the inquiry about the Cymbeline.

Mr. CASGRAIN: How much did that inquiry cost the government?

Mr. DURANLEAU: We have not received the bills yet, except the stenographers' bills, if I remember correctly.

Mr. CASGRAIN: The solicitors' bills are not in?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Not yet.

Mr. CASGRAIN: May I ask if there is any counsellor at law specially attached to the Department of Marine?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Not at the present time.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Mr. Chairman—

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): Hear, hear! Speak French!

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Would the hon. minister be kind enough to furnish the house with details of the divers and contingent expenditures made in connection with this item last year.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): I can furnish the expenditure from 1920 to 1930, if required.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): That would be very interesting.

Mr. DURANLEAU: I have no objection, but it would be quite long.

Mr. POULIOT: I would like to have them.

Mr. DURANLEAU: It is a full page.