

hon. gentleman may rest assured that the Department will not fail to do its duty in that direction.

Motion agreed to.

#### LIGHTS ON THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER.

Mr. VALIN (Translation), in moving for copies of all petitions or papers asking for the placing of lights on the River St. Lawrence, north of the Island of Orleans, in the county of Montmorency, in order to protect and facilitate navigation during dark nights, as there are many boulders in that part of the river, which is visited by a great number of vessels doing the local traffic, said: Mr. Speaker, I hope the Government will give to that part of the River St. Lawrence the few lights that are absolutely necessary when nights are dark. Sea-going vessels do not come to this part of the river; the traffic goes on the other side of the channel, opposite the Island of Orleans, but we have a large population on this side—that is to say, north of the Island of Orleans. We have a great many boats which are used to carry building stone to Quebec. These boats are constantly moving up and down the river, so that, night and day, very often, these boats so laden with stone, are exposed to serious dangers, and it will be easily conceived that such a boat is soon broken up and shattered to pieces if she meets with an accident, for I know that at that spot the shoals are very wide and covered with boulders. The poor boatman frequently sees his craft, which composes his whole property, completely destroyed because he has not been able to guide it safely through this intricate channel. For this reason he needs a little protection. Moreover, we have in that part of the river a great number of steamboats doing service between Quebec and Ste. Anne, this last place being a resort of pilgrims, visited by large numbers of people. In fact, last year over 80,000 pilgrims visited this place, and on one day we had the sorrow to see a steamboat stranded on the boulders, and so badly shattered that it could not be repaired and was a total loss. It is very true that most of the steamboats which travel in these parts are doing day service, but if it should happen that they should have to pass there during the night, such steamboats would be exposed to such accidents as may befall vessels of any other kind. Therefore, I hope that the Government will take into consideration the motion I now make and that they will be pleased to grant our request.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. (Translation). The two last lines of the motion of the hon. member will have to be taken off, as they express an opinion. Such remarks go very well in his speech, but not as well in his motion. I must tell the hon. member that his request will be granted. I have observed that he had pretty well strewn his speech with big boulders, probably in order to throw them at my back while I was listening to him. These boulders come under my Department, and have nothing whatever to do with the Department of Marine. I am happy to see that my hon. friend has only used imaginary boulders, and that he has called my attention on this matter. He may feel sure that I shall not forget what he has just said, and that if anything can be done in the direction pointed out by him, it will be done.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

#### CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. IRVINE, in moving for copies of all correspondence which passed between any Department of the Government or member thereof, and any person whomsoever in relation to the appointment of James H. Jacques and Charles Kearney, of Carleton County, New Brunswick, both or either

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN.

of them, to positions in the Civil Service of Canada; and also, copies of all correspondence and enquiries made by the Government in relation to their positions in the Civil Service, said: I moved a resolution similar to this on the 10th of April, 1883, and I received the following answer on the 4th of February instant:—

"In returning to you the enclosed Address from the House of Commons, bearing date 10th April last, calling for correspondence re appointments of James H. Jacques and Charles Kearney, in the Civil Service, I beg leave to state that there is no correspondence in relation thereto on record in this Department.

(Signed) "J. JOHNSON,  
"Commissioner of Customs."

In reference to the appointment of Mr. Jacques, the reason I moved last year was that the office was created by the hon. Mr. Mackenzie's Government, and a Liberal was appointed to it by that Administration. During the time he had that position, the Conservatives in the county declared that the office was a sinecure, and, in some way which I am not able to declare, the Liberal resigned; the office remained vacant for a time, I cannot state how long, but the present incumbent was appointed by the present Administration, and he is a Conservative. I beg leave to say that the Conservatives and Liberals in the county now agree that the office is a necessary one, and all are agreed that the officer who was removed was a very good man, and all are agreed that the present incumbent is a capable one. We are all agreed upon that, that the office is necessary, only it is now filled by a Conservative instead of a Liberal. I can promise this, so far as I am concerned, that I am perfectly satisfied with the way in which the duties of the office are being performed, and when my party get into power, which they will very soon, judging from the result of the York election, I will not remove him or recommend his being removed. There is another sign that I see on the political horizon, that the political crib will soon be empty, and the Tories never like to feed at an empty crib. In reference to Mr. Kearney, I have a stronger objection to make. On the 10th April, last year, I made the statement that the office was a sinecure, that there was no need of the appointment. I make the same statement here now and, if he is not removed, I will make it next year; and, if he is not removed, I will, if I am spared, make it the year after. I have not the power to make recommendations to the present Administration, but I have the power to protest when they abuse the power invested in them, and by virtue of the power vested in me as the lawfully elected member for the county, I protested last year and I protest again now. The grounds of my protestation are that it is not necessary to have an officer there. I live within four miles of this very road, and I know that the distance between the American boundary and the St. John River is about eight miles. As I said last year, the Mackenzie Administration created an office, and appointed a collector of Customs as well as a preventive officer, and gave him a salary of \$300. In 1882 the Government collected \$700 there; and in 1883, I think, they collected \$500. They give this gentleman, appointed by the Mackenzie Administration, \$300, and they give the gentleman appointed by the present Administration \$200—I think in the whole \$500, just the amount collected; so it is a square thing. I have not any objection, because I think the money might just as well go that way as any other. That is not exactly my strongest point. I made the statement last year that he was the most extensive merchant in the village, and I do not fear contradiction in that statement. The hon. Minister of Customs did not seem to be aware of that fact; he did not know the gentleman he appointed, and, strange to say, there is no correspondence in the office. I do not know what little bird made the recommendation for the appointment, but some person did