

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). Deny what?

Mr. BRODEUR. That he is the political agent of the government.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). He is not the political agent of the government?

Mr. BRODEUR. Certainly not?

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). My friend from Grenville (Mr. Reid) said he was the financial agent for the Liberal party in Montreal.

Mr. BRODEUR. He is not, and the hon. member for Grenville made a lot of insinuations like that the other night.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). They were not insinuations, they were plain statements.

Mr. BRODEUR. He stated we were giving contracts to the firm represented by Mr. Lewis, but as I pointed out a few minutes ago, notwithstanding that Vickers, Sons & Maxim put in a lower tender than the Collingwood Shipbuilding Company, we gave the contract to the Collingwood Company. That shows what truth there was in the statement made by the hon. member for Grenville.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). That does not disprove the statement made by the hon. member for Grenville, and he defied the minister to deny it: that Mr. Lewis was his purchasing agent, and that this vessel was increased a foot in width so that she could not go through the canal. The minister did not deny that statement when it was made. This vote should stand over until we know more about McAvity and Lymburner.

Mr. BRODEUR. These same accounts were referred to the Public Accounts Committee, and the committee has reported.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). The committee has not yet reported.

Mr. BRODEUR. We will welcome any investigation with regard to the purchases made from Lymburner or any one else.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). You will get it.

Mr. CROSBY. I think the minister should go on with some other items.

Mr. BRODEUR. If the committee is of opinion that we should not discuss this big question of the St. Lawrence ship canal because there is an item of \$400 in dispute I will go on with something else.

Magnetic observatory, \$3,200.

Mr. DANIEL. Where is this observatory?

Mr. BRODEUR. At Agincourt, near Toronto.

Mr. DANIEL. What is that observatory for?

Mr. BRODEUR. For observing the magnetism of the earth.

Mr. DANIEL. What kind of observations are made at this place?

Mr. BRODEUR. Observations of the magnetism of the earth. My hon. friend can see the report of Mr. Stupart at page 198 of the Marine report.

Mr. HENDERSON. Of what practical use is all this going to be?

Mr. BRODEUR. It has been going on for many years. I have no doubt that these scientific observations will bring some good results.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). Last year \$1,674 was spent on this. Why is it necessary to ask for \$3,200 this year?

Mr. BRODEUR. I have explained how it is proposed to be spent.

Mr. HUGHES. What instruments are used in this observatory?

Mr. BRODEUR. I cannot give my hon. friend the information.

Mr. HENDERSON. The salaries of these officials are very low—\$500 and \$600. They surely cannot be high-class scientific men.

Mr. BRODEUR. They are not working the whole year. Besides, some of them are paid out of two votes.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). Out of the next vote Mr. Stupart gets a salary of \$3,100, and he is paid here \$85 for expenses.

Mr. BRODEUR. Mr. Stupart is in charge of both the meteorological office in Toronto and the magnetic observatory at Agincourt. He goes there occasionally, and is paid his travelling expenses.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). Why should he be paid his laundry account?

Mr. BRODEUR. I suppose that is part of his expenses. It is a very small item.

Mr. HENDERSON. How long has this observatory at Agincourt been established? I never heard of it before.

Mr. BRODEUR. I think in 1840. I am under the impression that it was at the same time that the meteorological office was opened. We rent a house for the purpose at Agincourt.

Mr. HENDERSON. Of what particular advantage is this place for an observatory?

Mr. BRODEUR. Probably because it is far from the city. No doubt there were good reasons.

Mr. HUGHES. Who owns the house?

Mr. BRODEUR. I cannot say.