

## SUPPLY

## DEPARTMENT OF MARINE

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Ross in the chair.

Ocean and river service—maintenance and repairs to dominion steamers and icebreakers, \$1,460,000.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): How many icebreakers have we?

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): Out of twenty-five boats we have five icebreakers.

Mr. DORION (Translation): Mr. Chairman, may I draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) to the fact that for some time past—I do not know whether this existed under the previous regime—some of the men employed on the icebreakers complain that they are obliged to work 12 and 14 hours per day. I am aware that the government wish to practice economy, however, on the other hand, I do not think that it is a sound policy to have men work 12 or 14 hours per day. I, therefore, wish to draw the attention of the minister of Marine to this matter and trust that he will find the means of remedying these complaints which come to us from the hands at work on the icebreakers.

Mr. GAGNON (Translation): Mr. Chairman, I entirely endorse the remarks made by my hon. friend from Quebec and Montmorency (Mr. Dorion). I do not think it fair to have the men work more than for what their wages call, namely 8 hours per day.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): Mr. Chairman, may I inform my hon. friends that the men on icebreakers will start work in a few days and I can assure them that they will be fairly dealt with.

Mr. MERCIER (Saint Henri) (Translation): How many gangs are there on these icebreakers?

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Mr. Chairman, if the employees work shorter hours, will the hon. minister appoint more men on the recommendation of the hon. members for Dorchester and Quebec Montmorency; if so, how many?

Item agreed to.

Miscellaneous services relating to navigation and shipping, \$37,000.

Mr. HEENAN: I would like to have some information from the minister with respect to the fair wage question in dispute in Halifax

over the building of an icebreaker. The minister will recall that there was a dispute with respect to wages. The Department of Labour gave a certain decision, but later the question was allowed to go before a court or board of arbitration. Will the minister tell us whether or not a decision has been rendered in that case?

Mr. DURANLEAU: The judge in charge of the inquiry rendered a decision in favour of the employees, and under that decision they are receiving full wages.

Mr. HEENAN: Could the minister lay on the table the decision of the judge?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I see no objection to that.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Will the hon. minister of Marine inform the house what item in the estimates has reference to the dredging of the St. Lawrence river?

Mr. DORION (Translation): That is not included in the estimates of the department of marine but will be found in the estimates of the department of public works.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): No, the department of marine has something to do with the dredging. I recall that last year we discussed this question when the hon. minister of marine submitted his estimates to the house.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): No. 142.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): The question was discussed, last year, when the estimates of the hon. minister were before the house. I wonder if this item was transferred, in the meantime from the department of marine to that of public works.

I am very much interested. I am fond of Mr. Simard and Mr. Dufresne and I should like very much to find out what extraordinary work they are carrying out on the St. Lawrence.

Mr. DORION (Translation): The hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Cardin) would also like to know?

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): At present, the question is what the minister is undertaking; there is no reference to his predecessor. I am alluding to Mr. Simard and Mr. Dufresne. If the hon. Minister of Marine has nothing to do with these gentlemen, I shall deal with them on another occasion.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): The hon. member will have full opportunity to discuss this question when item No. 142 is reached.