

SUPPLY—MARINE AND FISHERIES—MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS—*Con.*

Brodeur, Hon. L. P. (Minister of Marine and Fisheries)—*Con.*

and Fort William but they were sent out from Sarnia, and an agreement was made that they would be paid \$5,000—4089. The report shows that the 'Siskiwitt's' nominal horse-power is six; does not know difference between nominal and exact horse-power—4090. The 'Algoma' was employed only in the following spring, not in the fall when the three vessels were employed—4091. We did not engage the boats ourselves but simply made an agreement by which those people were to keep the channel free of ice and open—4092. The arrangement was made with the Sault St. Marie Tug Company. We were asked by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and other public bodies to keep the channel open and to see that lights were kept up, so as to give a chance to vessels to go through Lake Superior and the Soo canal and reach Georgian bay—4093. It is not necessary to have powerful boats to keep ice from forming—4094. The tug was under commission of the department engaged in the lighthouse service—4096. The 'Seguin' was employed for construction work below Quebec; a report was sent to the department recommending that repairs should be made to vessel in order to make her fit for service, and instructions were given to make repairs; the 'Seguin' was a fairly good boat—4097. The additional sum asked for is due to the fact that we have another boat which was not included in the vote last year; in the supplementaries there will be large amounts for covering any deficits. This year we are providing a sufficient sum to cover the cost of maintenance and repairs—4098. It is inconvenient to pass from one item to another as different items are under control of different officers—4099. Why should my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) call upon me to give an explanation of an item which is not before the committee—4100. What is the size of the boiler, is that six by six?—4105. As a question of fairness to the department it would be better to wait until the investigation is over and not try to prejudice public opinion in the meantime—4109-10. The old 'Druid' cost in 1896, \$15,923.91; the new 'Druid' is a much larger ship and necessarily costs more to maintain—4114. In 1896 there were spent on the 'Lansdowne' \$26,546.94; last year we spent \$44,936.83—4115. The expenditure on the 'Quadra' was \$57,459.31—4116. If officers of the department have deceived me in regard to figures they will have to bear all responsibility; let item stand—4117.

Deputy Speaker, Mr.—4117.

Item 193 stands—4117.

Fielding, Hon. W. S. (Minister of Finance)—4110.

I made no such statement; it is the policy of the hon. gentleman (Mr. J. D. Reid) to make statements which are entirely at

SUPPLY—MARINE AND FISHERIES—MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS—*Con.*

Fielding, Hon. W. S. (Minister of Finance)—*Con.*

variance with the facts—4110. Evidence of committee may be used without referring to what has gone on in committee. Some of the prices paid were not fair and reasonable, and officials, be they ministers or subordinates, who certified to the accounts in these cases, were careless, and therefore open to censure; figures of hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) are changeable—4112. Hon. gentlemen have no more right to speak for electors now than they have had on previous occasions—4113.

Fowler, G. W. (King's and Albert, N.B.)—4097.

Would minister tell me why this Drolet bill of \$1,615.93 was necessary?—4097. Hon. gentleman from Leeds (Mr. Taylor) did not say the letter was from Goldie & McCullough. It is a very singular thing that the Department of Marine should find it necessary to buy from Brooks or Merwin when they can buy from Canadian manufacturers direct without any intermediary—4104. Why are so many repairs needed on the 'Druid'?—4114.

Hughes, Sam (Victoria and Haliburton)—4111.

There is no reason why this pump business and other matters of that kind should not be inquired into in Committee of Supply as well as in the Public Accounts Committee. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) did not say that because the matter is before the Public Accounts Committee it cannot be discussed in the House—4112.

Ingram, A. B. (East Elgin)—4111.

Will it be said that the electors of Canada are not interested in what a man pays for an article which he sells to the government under the circumstances that have been disclosed? If we do not receive information in this committee, we shall not receive it in the Public Accounts Committee, because some hon. members go to that committee for the very purpose of burking inquiry—4111. What was the tonnage of the old 'Druid'?—4115.

Northrup, W. B. (East Hastings)—4094.

The only person in the House who fails to grasp the meaning of the statements made by hon. members on this side is the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Brodeur) himself—4094. Does not object to keeping open the harbour, but does object to the mode of procedure; the department paid far too much for the work of the tugs—4095. Is it the custom of the department to repair the most unfit and unsuitable boats that can be secured? What kind of stove was used?—4097. Whether or not the charges are true is of comparatively little importance compared with the question now raised as to the right hon. the Prime Minister redeeming the pledge he deliberately gave to the House—4104. System of keeping accounts is not accurate; quotes examples—4117.