

dent whaler, the stock of the venture amounting to \$32,000, being owned by the captain, the officers, and some merchants of San Francisco. The 'Karluk' cruised in the neighbourhood of Baillie island and Banks Land until the close of navigation. She returned to Herschel island on September 23, having killed 11 bowhead whales, 8 of which I understand were taken in Canadian waters, north and east of Cape Parry. The value of this cargo of 11 head is, at a low estimate of the present low price of bone, \$85,000. The 'Karluk' is wintering at Herschel island and will return to the eastward by first open water. As she will have the field to herself for at least six weeks before any other ships can arrive from the westward the chances are that she will make another large catch and will no doubt leave in the fall of this year for San Francisco with a cargo of bone valued from \$150,000 upwards.

He goes on to speak of the trade that is developing there and says that unless some Canadian traders locate there it will fall into American hands. But the point I wish to bring to the minister's attention is that while Captain Bernier is perhaps ice bound in Hudson bay, or in the waters adjacent thereto, American fishing is going on near the head waters of Mackenzie river, and there does not seem to be any systematic effort to prevent poaching:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I have been somewhat reluctant to break in on the hon. member (Mr. Jameson), but the item before the committee is for the establishment of telephonic communication between Montreal and Quebec.

Mr. JAMESON. I think that possibly it may be that, strictly speaking, this discussion will be out of order, but if you, Mr. Chairman, will permit me, I shall be through in a moment. I have thought this matter of such importance that the minister would like to have it brought to his attention, and I think it also well that the committee should understand the position. Just one word in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, and it is to say that after the statement the minister made to the committee the other evening with regard to this voyage of Captain Bernier to the Arctic regions, and as to the work which he was doing there in collecting license fees from American poachers, a statement appeared in the New York 'Sun' to the effect that the license fee which was being collected was \$50 in each case. I would like to ask the minister whether there has been any collection of this license fee from those whalers who are operating on the coast to the north-westward, or whether any attempt has been made to enforce any such collection. So far, the minister told the House \$500 had been received in all.

Mr. BRODEUR. I do not think we have collected anything from the whalers at the

mouth of the Mackenzie river, but there have been some collections made at other points. If Captain Bernier succeeds in making the Northwest passage he will have an opportunity of making these whalers pay the fees. I must tell my hon. friend that the report was handed to me on Friday last. But there were some maps which were not included, and that is the reason which delayed the distribution. But it will be done in a few days.

Mr. DANIEL. While on that matter of a report, I may say that Captain Bernier took with him as historian a Mr. Vanasse. He has been with him on each trip. So far, I believe, Mr. Vanasse has made no report; at all events, I have seen no published report made over his signature.

Mr. BRODEUR. There is a report of Mr. Vanasse, I have seen it myself. A few days before he left, Mr. Vanasse handed in a report to the department, and it has been sent to the printers. He was desirous that the history should comprehend a longer period of time.

Mr. JAMESON. What is the total expense likely to be in connection with this telephone service?

Mr. BRODEUR. The amount expended last year was \$22,180. The work is completed.

To provide for telephones at different points throughout the Dominion in connection with aids to navigation, \$10,000.

Mr. BRODEUR. This is for the purpose of connecting lighthouse stations by telephone or telegraph lines in order to facilitate communication with ships.

Mr. DANIEL. Is there anything in this vote for the purpose of increasing telephone communication in connection with the new life-saving stations?

Mr. BRODEUR. Part of this vote will be applied to that purpose. It is for the purpose of connecting life stations with the telephone and telegraph stations. Colonel Anderson is looking after this part of the work.

Repairs to maritime road, \$1,000.

Mr. BRODEUR. This is a road on the north side of Gaspé for the purpose of giving access to the Gulf telephone line. The sum of \$1,000 has been spent. The money is expended by day labour under the supervision of Commander Wakeham. The road is on the north shore of Gaspé, running between Metis and Gaspé, several hundred miles.

Mr. DANIEL. How much has been spent on it now.

Mr. BRODEUR. Only \$2,000 or \$3,000. This is to make repairs which are abso-