

Mr. TAYLOR. When we were discussing this same item before, I made a few remarks which will be found at page 3380 of the revised 'Hansard.' I made use of the following language :

My hon. friend from Grenville (Mr. J. D. Reid) has referred to one or two of those little companies. A Yankee from New York by the name of F. L. Brooks established an office in Montreal and called it F. L. Brooks & Company. He had an agent there named Merwin. When this department requires any machinery, no matter of what kind, they do not apply to Canadian manufacturers.

Mr. BRODEUR. That will come also on the next item.

Mr. TAYLOR. This discussion took place on the first item.

Mr. BRODEUR. No.

Mr. TAYLOR. I know what I am talking about. It took place on the item.

Maintenance and repairs to government steamers and ice-breakers, including steamer 'Arctic.'

Mr. BRODEUR. At what page of the Auditor General's Report ?

Mr. TAYLOR. I am not talking about the Auditor General's Report. I am talking about the item we are now discussing—page 60 of the estimates. This discussion took place when we were discussing the 'Arctic.' I referred to the 'Arctic' later on.

Mr. BRODEUR. I think it would be very much more satisfactory to leave this until we reach the proper item. These different items are under the control of different officers. It is inconvenient to pass from one item to another. We are now on the question of ocean and river service which is under the control of certain officers of the department. I get these officers here, and now it is proposed to discuss something else in regard to aids to navigation which is under the control of another officer. I think it would be more satisfactory not only to myself but to the committee to have the officer here who is looking after that branch of the service when the discussion takes place. My hon. friend is referring to the question of aids to navigation. We will come to that later on and the officer who is in charge of that will be here to give the necessary information.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend will find that he does not require an officer at his elbow to answer the questions I am going to submit. This discussion took place when this item was up before. On that occasion I made use of this further language :

Then we go down to Montreal where we find a firm called Chas. Strubbe. If the Minister of Marine and Fisheries will turn up the Auditor General's Report, page P-163, he will find there \$4,786.45 for files, flat and round, and

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half round files, enough to last any manufacturing concern.

Mr. BRODEUR. That is not at all under this item. I do not think it is fair for my hon. friend to proceed with this discussion. It would be very much better for him to wait, because I will be in a position to give him fuller information if I have the officer here. Now he is speaking of the St. Lawrence ship channel. Page P-163 refers to the St. Lawrence ship channel. The officer who has that matter in charge is not here. Why should my hon. friend call upon me to give an explanation of an item which is not before the committee ?

Mr. TAYLOR. I am not asking the minister to give me an explanation why he bought \$5,000 worth of files, but I did make certain charges the other night, the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) made an answer and that discussion took place under this item. I want to discuss the point that was raised then, a little farther now. Then I went on and discussed the steamer 'Arctic.' I said :

I would like to have a committee of three, if only one from the opposition and two from the government side, go down and see what stuff is left on the boat, see if it comes to \$32,000. If it does there is still \$150,000 worth of the supplies to be accounted for.

That is in reference to the 'Arctic' and that is under this item. Then I made a reference to the purchase by the government for \$975 of a boiler and I stated that I had a quotation for the same boiler at \$500. I read a letter from the concern which supplied the government with another boiler for \$500, and I said :

I am prepared to say that if the hon. gentleman will appoint a commission to look at the boiler and the specifications from Goldie & McCullough they will say they are the same thing.

Then the Prime Minister, after my hon. friend from Grenville and others had spoken, made use of this language :

Some very specific charges have been made by the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) and by the hon. member for Hastings (Mr. Northrup) and the hon. member for Grenville (Mr. Reid) and also to a certain extent by the leader of the opposition. These gentlemen have charged that in the supplying of the steamer 'Arctic' very serious offences have been committed.

Then, further down, he said :

And to this the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) adds that this has been done for the purpose of giving a rake-off to somebody. These charges are too serious to be passed over, and I have only to say that I agree at once to the suggestion made a moment ago by the hon. member for Leeds, when he says that if he be given a committee he will prove everything that he has charged.