

As to the apprentice-pilots, we have also heard their claims and no complaint was ever made that favour was shown in the appointments made from the eligible list. I do not think that my hon. friend from Temiscouata can point out one case where the apprentices, at the bottom of the list, were given preference over those who headed the list. I do not assert it, however, I would be pleased if such a case was brought to my attention.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): This was done in 1926 by Mr. Patenaude. I am delighted to hear the statement of the hon. minister however, I was aware that the thing had been done. I do not wish to further insist. I neither doubted the good faith of the hon. Minister of Marine.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): With reference to the other question broached by my hon. friend from l'Islet, I shall look into the question of the float to which he referred, and should we find it possible to carry out his suggestions, we shall do so at the beginning of the navigation season.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): I named Mr. Patenaude, I am not positive whether he was the minister, I was alluding to the Minister of Marine in the shadow government.

Mr. FAFARD (Translation): I wish to thank the hon. minister for the way he listened to my request. I do not hide from him that this request will entail a considerable outlay. Some work has already been done and the government engineers are perfectly conversant with the outlay required. What I have in mind is the safety of the navigation on the St. Lawrence. Ships from all parts of the world travel on the St. Lawrence and the accidents which might occur would be disastrous not only from a material viewpoint but for the good name of the St. Lawrence waterway.

Mr. VENIOT: Perhaps when I was not in the house the item concerning lighthouses was considered. I should like to ask the minister however if under this item he could give me any information touching the dismissal of Beverly Stewart, lightkeeper at White's Cove, the reason for his dismissal, and the fact as to whether or not there was any investigation. If he has not the information now I shall be content to have it later.

Mr. DURANLEAU: I would be pleased to answer the hon. member under item 145.

Mr. VENIOT: It comes up later?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Yes.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Duranleau.]

To provide subsidies for wrecking plants—Quebec and British Columbia, \$40,000.

Mr. POWER: May I ask what amounts are paid in subsidies under this item to Quebec and British Columbia?

Mr. DURANLEAU: There is \$30,000 paid yearly to the Quebec Salvage and Wrecking Company Limited, and \$10,000 to the Pacific Salvage Company under contracts.

Mr. POWER: It seems to me that the amount paid in connection with Quebec is paid to an American concern?

Mr. DURANLEAU: No.

Mr. POWER: I believe the firm is called Merritt and Chaplin. Formerly the payment was \$25,000; when was it raised to \$30,000?

Mr. DURANLEAU: When the present government took office the amount paid was \$60,000 a year, under contract. I am sure about that; the estimates and public accounts show that I am correct. Since last year we reduced the amount by \$30,000; it was cut in half.

Mr. POWER: To whom is it paid?

Mr. DURANLEAU: To the Quebec Salvage and Wrecking Company Limited; the Canadian Pacific Railway is the owner of more than one-half of the shares of the company.

Mr. POWER: Is it not a fact that an American firm of Merritt and Chaplin do the work?

Mr. DURANLEAU: No. We have an assurance from the Canadian Pacific Railway that they own over 51 per cent of the shares.

Mr. POWER: They may own fifty shares, and one extra to somebody else—but I doubt even that. I believe if the minister gets further information he will find the concern at Quebec is run almost exclusively from New York city. If they perform the service properly, I have no objection, but I believe the minister should make inquiries. I have not any definite information in my hand, but I do know that correspondence with respect to matters of policy must be referred to New York. Then, can the minister tell me how long the contract will be in existence, and when it was made?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Do you mean with the Quebec Salvage and Wrecking Company?

Mr. POWER: Yes.

Mr. DURANLEAU: For two years.

Mr. POWER: When was it made?