

administration of the navy, but it is the intention of the government to transmute from the Department of Marine and Fisheries to the Navy Department the following services as defined in subsection (i) of the present section 2: The naval service, the fisheries protection service, hydrographic survey, tidal observation, and wireless telegraph service. I hope that I have made myself clearly understood. The department of the naval service will have control of the navy and in addition the protection of the fisheries, the hydrographic survey, the tidal observation and wireless telegraphy. These services in themselves now constitute an important branch of the administration. I shall give some information to the House as to the reasons for placing these different branches of the service, that is the protection of the fisheries, the hydrographic survey, the tidal observation survey and the wireless telegraphy under this department. Under the heading of the protection of fisheries we have one of the most important services of the government. We have engaged in the service at present eight ships, the 'Canada,' the 'Constance,' the 'Federal,' the 'Curlew,' the 'Vigilant,' the 'Kestrel,' the 'Falcon,' and the 'Restless.' The 'Canada' is a ship of 580 tons, 200 feet in length, 25 feet beam, with a maximum speed of 17½ knots. The 'Constance' is a ship of 105 tons burden, 161 feet in length, 19 feet beam, with a maximum speed of 10 knots. The 'Kestrel' has a tonnage of 122 tons, is 160 feet long, 22 feet beam and has a maximum speed of 10 knots. These ships are at present, and have been for years, patrolling the waters of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and that part of the gulf, protecting the Canadian fishermen and Canadian fisheries generally.

The 'Curlew' is of a somewhat similar character and is charged with the protection of the fisheries on the waters of the Great Lakes. The 'Vigilant' is on the shores of the Bay of Fundy and the coast of New Brunswick. The 'Kestrel' is on the shores of British Columbia, chiefly Hecate strait. The other two are small vessels, the 'Falcon' and the 'Restless,' connected with the same service.

The hydrographic survey fleet is composed of three ships, the 'Bayfield,' 'La Canadienne' and the 'Lillooet.' The 'Bayfield' is preparing the surveys on Lake Ontario, 'La Canadienne' on the lower St. Lawrence and the 'Lillooet' in British Columbia.

The tidal survey is chiefly in the lower St. Lawrence. We have one ship connected with the survey, the 'Gulnare,' which is constantly at work taking surveys at all times of the day.

In the wireless telegraph service the government now owns 21 stations in Canada. These stations are:

Father Point, River St. Lawrence.
Clarke City, River St. Lawrence.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Fame Point, River St. Lawrence.
Heath Point, Anticosti.
Cape Bear, Prince Edward Island.
Pictou, Nova Scotia.
Cape Race, Newfoundland.
Whittle Rocks, Gulf of St. Lawrence.
Point Armour, Gulf of St. Lawrence.
Belle Isle, Gulf of St. Lawrence.
Point Rich, Gulf of St. Lawrence.
Cape Ray, Newfoundland.
Sydney, Nova Scotia.
Cape Sable, Nova Scotia.
Partridge Island, New Brunswick.
Point Grey, British Columbia.
Victoria, British Columbia.
Pachena, British Columbia.
Estevan, British Columbia.
Cape Lazo, British Columbia.
Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

It is proposed that all these different services shall be transferred from the Department of Marine and Fisheries to the Department of the Naval Service.

Mr. SPROULE. If it is proposed to establish a new department, would not the proper course have been to introduce a Bill to establish the department first?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think the proper place is in connection with the Naval Bill. When we came to look into the matter closely it was found that it would be too much to place under one department. It was decided to have a separate department which would be presided over by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. SPROULE. Is it intended to appoint another deputy minister for that department?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The proposal is to create a new department with a new deputy minister but to have it under the control of one of the existing ministers.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes. Under the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

On section 4,

The command in chief of the naval forces is vested in the King, and shall be exercised and administered by His Majesty or by the Governor General as His representative.

Mr. NORTHRUP. Is this section not in direct contravention of the British North America Act, which provides that the authority should continued to be vested in the King? This presumes to direct how that authority should be exercised, and is therefore adding something material to the British North America Act.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This has been the law of Canada since confederation.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Section 15 of the British North America Act is as follows:

The command in chief of the land and naval militia, and of all naval and military forces, of and in Canada, is hereby declared to continue and be vested in the Queen.

As the hon. member for Hastings has said,