

to the general cost of pilotage. I am entirely in accord with the idea that we want to make our harbours safe and our pilotage system the very best it can be made. But expenses should not be multiplied because of that fact. We should keep down the expenses to shipping by keeping the dues as low as possible, and I believe the country at large would benefit, commerce would benefit, and the port of Montreal would benefit if pilotage charges were less on the St. Lawrence. I think that the scheme followed on the Pacific coast might very well be tried in the pilotage districts referred to by my hon. friend from South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie).

Mr. LAPOINTE: There have been so many conflicting representations made to me on this very question that I shall inquire very seriously into the matter this year. The pilots contend that their salaries are no higher than those paid elsewhere both in the United States and in other countries, while the shipping federation seems to be of another opinion. I shall have this matter fully considered, and my hon. friend may rest assured that I shall see that justice is done by both sides.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The information I had came from a member of the shipping federation, just about the time when a delegation of St. Lawrence pilots waited upon my hon. friend in Ottawa and pointed out to him that one of the great hindrances to successful shipping on the St. Lawrence was the matter of pilotage dues. I did not know how the matter was regulated. I thought the Government had some right to regulate the amount of dues, but his statement was that pilots who worked four to five months made as much as \$6,000 on the St. Lawrence line, and he added that the shipping men found they could not compete.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The pilots say that this is the case of one pilot who has refused to become a member of the corporation. He is an independent pilot and the others claim that he is very friendly to the shipping federation and has been employed more than they have been; hence the salary he gets. Of course, his is a peculiar case and the amount he gets is not the average earned by pilots, which is under \$3,000.

Mr. STEVENS: Does not what my hon. friend has just said emphasize the need of his taking actual control of the pilotage situation? Here, he says, is a pilot who because of some pull, if I may use the common phrase, with some shipping com-

panies gets a sum far in excess of two or more times the amount the average pilot secures. That is wholly unfair and unsatisfactory, and we shall never have a contented, efficient and satisfactory pilotage system if there is to be preference of that kind allowed or even made possible. My hon. friend is facing now the very difficulties which the previous minister faced. The previous minister took all the arguments that had been presented to him and which have been referred to tonight. The same claims were made, the same arguments advanced, and action was taken.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Not in the Montreal district.

Mr. STEVENS: No. Action was taken on the Pacific coast, with satisfactory results. I strongly urge my hon. friend to do it in the interests of the shipping of the country generally, rather than in the interests of the pilots.

Mr. GRAHAM: There was rather a suggestion from the Press Gallery that the House should close at ten o'clock, and if hon. members would let the few items on this page go through, we might call it eleven o'clock and adjourn. We have reserved two items on which discussion could take place next week.

Mr. STEVENS: Why not have an understanding that we may have a general discussion on the item already allowed to stand on the previous list, which is a large item?

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes. We will allow these other items to go through and then adjourn.

Mr. STEVENS: Yes.

Mr. LAPOINTE: There are two items of the Marine Department on the next page that I should like to have passed tonight, items 250 and 251.

Scientific Institutions—Department of Marine—Meteorological Service, including Magnetic Observatory, grants of \$500 each to Kingston and Montreal Observatories, and allowance of \$400 to L. F. Gorman, Observer at Ottawa, \$262,000.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I do not know anything about that item.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It is for salaries.

Mr. STEVENS: I think, Mr. Chairman, we have done pretty well for the minister,