

Mr. BRODEUR. This is for the purpose of connecting life stations by telephone or telegraph for the purpose of facilitating communication with ships.

Mr. JAMESON. Is there any report of what has been done in connection with this service?

Mr. BRODEUR. The report will be found on page 239 of the Marine and Fisheries Department.

Mr. JAMESON. Is the report of Captain Bernier yet printed?

Mr. BRODEUR. I am informed that it will be ready in a few days.

Mr. JAMESON. Is there any reason for the delay which has taken place in connection with it? I spoke to the minister last session with regard to this report, and the minister told me that he expected it would be out very soon. This is a report in connection with the 'Arctic' and the voyage of Captain Bernier to the Arctic regions. I see that there is a short report of Captain Bernier in the report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, but I would not wish the minister to confuse this with the report that I am looking for. This short report is dated April 5, 1910, and in the last clause of it he says:

I have prepared a detailed report which includes the report on the annexation of the northern lands.

That is the report we want to get, that is the report I am interested in, and I would like to know very much what it contains. So far the minister knows that all the information that we have had in this House is the information which appears on the tablet which will be found in the lobby leading to the library, and the extent of the information which we have from that tablet is not very great. The tablet itself, however, announces a concrete fact, and I think it is a matter of sufficient importance for the government to give the House and the country all the information that is contained in Captain Bernier's report. The tablet or memorial, bears the following inscription:

Winter Harbour Melville Island,
C. G. S. 'Arctic,' July 1, 1909.

This memorial is erected to-day to commemorate the taking possession for the Dominion of Canada of the whole Arctic archipelago lying to the north of America from longitude 60 W. to 141 W. up to the latitude of 90 N.

J. E. BERNIER,
Commander.

This subject is one that I think of sufficient importance for us to know something more about; at all events it has involved a somewhat expensive service, beginning in 1906, and continuing up to the present time.

Mr. BRODEUR.

A few evenings ago the House was asked to vote the large sum of \$59,000 for continuing this service for another year, and we voted that money without the report Captain Bernier had made to the government being placed in the hands of members of this House to show what he had actually done during his previous visit to these regions. In 1906 we expended for this service \$63,849.86; in 1907, \$34,706.39; in 1908, \$55,733.94; in 1909, \$36,942.75. In 1910 there was voted \$59,000. I cannot say how much of that has been expended up to date, because the report is not out yet. In 1911 we have been asked to vote, and we did vote the other evening, \$59,000, making a total of \$309,232.94. All we have to show for this expenditure up to date is a report made in 1907 and the memorial tablet erected in the corridor leading to the library.

The minister, the other evening when this vote was being asked—and it was very briefly discussed because it was just as the House was closing—gave us a very important statement in connection with it. Speaking of Captain Bernier's expedition, he said:

As there might be dispute some day about these islands being part of Canada, we thought we should assert our sovereignty.

And so Captain Bernier was sent to the Arctic regions for the purpose of asserting the sovereignty of Canada.

Mr. SPROULE. What sovereignty has Canada?

Mr. JAMESON. Well, let us say the sovereignty of Great Britain.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the whole thing is a superlative farce.

Mr. JAMESON. Well, there may be two opinions about that. We want to know what is contained in this report in order that we may be able to judge whether it is a superlative farce or whether it is a positive farce. But the great difficulty is that the report has not been brought down, and we do not know what it contains. The minister said that Captain Bernier was attempting to make the northwest passage during the present visitation which he is making to the northern regions with the view, it may be, of preventing poaching.

In the report of Mr. G. L. Jennings, who is commanding the Mackenzie river subdistrict of the Northwest Mounted Police, he states that there is considerable, of what I suppose to be, poaching going on, on the other side of the continent. He says at page 149 of the report of the Northwest Mounted Police for 1910, referring to this very matter:

In August, 1909, the steamer 'Karluk' arrived at Herschel island. She is an indepen-