

described, but to direct attention to the necessity of providing life-saving appliances on the coast of the island. No doubt the department has already been communicated with about it, and I hope something will be done to prevent red tapeism interfering on future occasions with attempts to save human life. There were several other wrecks in November. Owing to the utter inefficiency of the department and their refusal to do anything towards helping to save life in a great emergency, I wish to inquire if the government have done anything since that time to provide life-saving appliances on the coast of Prince Edward Island.

I notice that very many things have been provided and are to be provided in the case of British Columbia. I observe that part of the British Columbia demand was that a steamer should be maintained on that coast, and, as far as I could follow the hon. Secretary of State, I did not notice that that request had been complied with. In the case of Prince Edward Island no such request as that has been made, and a steamer would not be necessary. The railway runs the entire length of the province, and if there were efficient life-saving appliances available they could be moved along by the railway and sent to any point on the north shore of the province wherever they would be needed. What appears to be required is that these life-saving appliances should be first procured and made available, and secondly that the officials representing the government of the province would be in a position to implement them without having to communicate with the department at Ottawa. It seems extraordinary that when human life is in peril red tapeism would go so far as to require these officers to stand by and allow men to drown without having it in their power to do anything until they would communicate with the departments at Ottawa, and when the whole trouble would be over before any authority could be obtained.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The incident to which my hon. friend has alluded is of course a very regrettable one, and also the fact that persons were in charge there who, when human life was at stake, had not the courage to act independently of any authority.

I had no explanation of the fact from the department, and therefore I am unable to discuss that element of it, other than to say that I shall see that the hon. gentleman's remarks reach the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. The answer he has placed in my hands is a very brief one. It reads as follows:—'The department is aware of the recent unfortunate wrecks on Prince Edward Island, and is taking steps to provide a life-saving station on the north coast of the island.'

We hope that the persons in charge of the station will have—and I have no doubt they will possess—the authority to act in a case of emergency such as the hon. gentleman has described.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I intended to move a resolution somewhat similar to the motion under discussion, relating to the inland waters, but there is no necessity for doing so now that the hon. gentleman from Marshfield has brought in this resolution. I look at it altogether from a humane point of view. I think it concerns all parties, particularly those who live in the neighbourhood of where those accidents are liable to occur. Instead of an investigation in regard to Prince Edward Island, the inquiry should take a much wider scope and should embrace the whole of the inland waters of Canada. There is a resolution on the order paper of the House of Commons with reference to Toronto, and if every one is to move in this matter as accidents occur in any locality, there will be no general system. I think that it is not necessary to establish life-saving stations if the apparatus can be procured at certain points. I live at one of the lake ports, and I do not know as there has been any great loss of life there or any at all, as a result of not having life-saving apparatus, but accidents may happen. I have not the means of knowing just exactly what the causes of these disasters were, but there is no doubt that the season of navigation which has just closed has been fruitful of death by ship wreck, and by stress of weather; therefore I think it would be opportune, if the House will allow me to make the suggestion, that an investigation or an inquiry might be held as to the necessity for obtaining this apparatus, not for one particular locality, but