

The present contractor ought to be building a suitable boat; if not, the three months' notice should be given to him immediately. He would ask whether the Government have cancelled the contract for the winter steamer at Prince Edward Island by giving the contractor three months' notice, as required by the terms of the contract; if not, whether they have information that at the present time he has under construction a new boat, in accordance with the Government specification, so as to perform the next nine years of his contract. And if the contract is cancelled, what arrangement the Government purposes making for the carrying out of that item in the terms of Confederation with said island.

HON. MR. SCOTT said the Government had, as yet, given no notice of the annulment of the contract. They were aware of great difference of opinion as to the possibility of the scheme. However, they were most anxious to give it the fullest trial, and the sum of \$15,000 was put in the estimates this year for this ferry service. The contractor wanted \$20,000 a year. The \$15,000 was voted with a view to inducing some builder to construct a boat to perform the service, or, at all events, to make the attempt. The matter was engaging the attention of Government, and he hoped they should have a winter boat, if it was possible, to cope with the present difficulties of navigation in this season.

HON. MR. HOWLAN again urged a prompt contract for the boat, as it would take eight or nine months to build and equip her. Otherwise, next year would witness a repetition of past difficulties.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE said the reply of the Secretary of State was by no means satisfactory. It was impossible to extemporize a boat for such a service, and therefore he urged early action, to be in readiness for the exigencies of next winter.

#### BEACON LIGHTS NEAR TADOUSAC.

HON. MR. PRICE, on rising to speak to the motion in his name on the Orders, was understood to say that last session \$1,000 was placed in the estimates for the building of beacon lights at the island near Tadousac,

County of Saguenay. Any one acquainted with the navigation of the Lower St. Lawrence was perfectly aware it was impossible to put up lights, as projected, at this spot. The water was so deep, and the cliffs so high and perpendicular, that there was no means of carrying out this object. He was quite surprised, therefore, to find this sum in the estimates, but learned it was placed there through the representations of the member for Charlevoix, the neighbouring county. On enquiry, he had learned that a light-house was to be erected to provide a place for the brother of that member, who could not be provided for anywhere else. He (Mr. Price) had the testimony of pilots and captains of steamers running to the Saguenay, to the effect that the proposed lights were unnecessary, and likely to prove dangerous to vessels by drawing them out of their safe course. He had acquainted the Marine and Fisheries Department and the Minister of Public Works with these facts, but, meantime, had heard the member for Charlevoix had managed to get another light-keeper to resign, so as to afford a berth for his (the member's) brother. He heard the contract for the lights at Tadousac was to be carried out. He protested against this objectionable expense, in order that the Government might enquire into the matter before proceeding further. All they wanted at the entrance to the Saguenay was a small steam-whistle which could be heard two or three miles off, and would not cost above \$250. If the rest of the money was spent for improvements at Chicoutimi, some good might be done. Instead of a general call for tenders being given, as it should be in these cases, a notice was stuck up at the Court House door or the bridge. Several persons in Quebec would readily tender for these works did they ever hear of them. He knew the reason for giving the tenders to the favored parties, for they had boasted of it for a long time previous, but was it fair in Government to take such means to please a partizan, who, some day or another, would regret giving him their support, as he (Mr. Price) had done. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) When the light-house was erected at