

pany, Quebec, new electric material to replace old and defective, &c., &c., \$349.95; Terreau & Racine, Quebec, one stove, \$157.50; labour, 29½ hours at 20 cents, \$166.28; for use of boat, \$2,500.

I can tell the minister that he has been very generous to his friend Miller, of Parry Sound, a prominent Liberal who owned this boat, fitting her up as an electric lighting apparatus, even down to such an article as a stove, and refitting the cabin with cooking utensils, &c. What became of the old stove?

Mr. BRODEUR. I must tell my hon. friend that I do not know much about the 'Seguin,' except that she was employed for construction work below Quebec. The assistant engineer informs me that a report was sent to the department recommending that these repairs should be made to the vessel in order to make her fit for the service, and on that report instructions were given to make the repairs. I am also informed that when the boat came back everything was removed from her that could be removed.

Mr. NORTHRUP. Is it the custom of the department to look about for the most unfit and unsuitable boat that can be secured in order that there may be occasions for making repairs and spending money on it?

Mr. BRODEUR. Sometimes it happens that boats are not always available, and sometimes we have to take those which are not the best for the purpose. I am informed that the 'Seguin' was a fairly good boat.

Mr. FOWLER. Would the minister tell me why this Drolet bill of \$1,615.93 was necessary?

Mr. BRODEUR. That item seems to have been for repairs on the boat. This boat was employed to do very difficult work down the gulf at various times. She may not have been the most suitable for that work on the river below Quebec, and probably repairs were necessary.

Mr. FOWLER. That stove seems to have been a very expensive one, \$157.50 and \$9 or \$10 for putting it up.

Mr. BRODEUR. I understand that there were sometimes as many as fifty men on board, and this stove was required for cooking purposes. These men were employed on construction work which was then going on below Quebec.

Mr. BENNETT. Was this boat hired on the recommendation of the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Watson)?

Mr. BRODEUR. No, no one recommended her specially.

Mr. NORTHRUP. What kind of a stove was this? It occurred to me that it might be a stove used for the purpose of thawing out this ice.

Mr. BRODEUR. I understand it was a large open range required to do the cooking for a large number of men.

Mr. BENNETT. How long was the boat employed?

Mr. BRODEUR. The whole season.

Mr. TAYLOR. I would like to inquire from the minister why he requires as much this year as he did last year. He is taking \$395,000 for nine months this year, and he took \$435,000 last year for the full year. There was \$222,000 spent on the steamer 'Arctic'. Does he propose fitting out another 'Arctic' this year?

Mr. BRODEUR. The additional sum asked for is due to the fact that we have another boat which was not included in the votes of last year. The 'Arctic' was not included in connection with this vote last year. Besides, I must inform my hon. friend that this year we have been short of money.

Mr. FOWLER. I should think so.

Mr. BRODEUR. But in the supplementaries there will be certain amounts for covering this deficit. Large repairs were required on these boats, which could not be estimated for when the vote was taken last year. This year we are providing what we consider a sufficient sum to cover the cost of maintenance and repairs.

Mr. BENNETT. I would direct the attention of the minister to page P-102: \$55,677.80 for sundry lights. That is apparently for repairs done on lighthouses. Were these repairs done by tender or without tender?

Mr. BRODEUR. The hon. gentleman will see that this total covers a great many expenses made in connection with several lights. I think about fifty or sixty lights. The amounts are all small, running from \$7.50, \$83.75 to \$1,147; consequently tenders were not called for.

Mr. BENNETT. I call the attention of the minister to this expenditure for the reason that I find in this list a number of lights on the Georgian bay.

Mr. BRODEUR. This will come under the next vote. We might dispose of the question of ocean and river service first and then we will come to the question of lights in the next vote.

Mr. J. D. REID. I see on page P-102 of the Auditor General's Report the accounts in connection with the steamship 'King Edward.' The hon. member will remember that I drew his attention to those the other evening.

Mr. BRODEUR. That is in connection with aids to navigation. We are now on the question of ocean and river service. We will take that up later on.