

complaints have been made. This service, however, is under a contract which lasts for a period of five years, and the service appears not to have been worse during the last year than it was heretofore. I have made a note of what my hon. friend (Mr. Ellis) said, and I will certainly call upon these gentlemen to show cause why they cannot improve their service so far as the terms of the contract fairly permit us to require it of them.

Steam service between Victoria and San Francisco ..... \$5,000

Mr. FOSTER. What is done with that money now?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. That is a kind of treaty obligation. It was part of our original obligation to British Columbia that we should retain this communication between San Francisco and Victoria.

Mr. FOSTER. Formerly the vote was much larger.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. My hon. friends, from British Columbia have not made any complaint of the service. Has the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) any experience of these steamers in his peregrinations?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I may say they are very good boats and give a very good service.

Mr. FOSTER. The question is the benefit of spending \$5,000 on a steamboat service at this date when you have trains running daily to carry the mails.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I grant you, but this is a treaty obligation.

Mr. FOSTER. There is an obligation and the amount of money formerly was much larger, but as a result of the expression of opinion that took place, this vote was reduced on the idea that the money would be more beneficial for other services in British Columbia than this one, such as a service running north rather than running south.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I apprehend we should have the consent of the British Columbia legislature to change the vote.

Mr. FOSTER. I understand, but I do not think it would be difficult to get that.

Steam communication during the season of 1898, i.e., from the opening to the closing of navigation between Gaspé Basin and Dalhousie ..... \$12,000

Mr. FOSTER. Is the "Admiral" running there now?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. No, I advertised for tenders and  
Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

the steamer "Monticello" got the contract as being the lowest tenderer.

Mr. FOSTER. Are they performing a similar service?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Yes, at a lower rate.

Mr. FOSTER. I must say my hon. friend has got a very excellent boat.

Steam communication during the season of 1898, i.e., for not less than 32 full round trips, between St. John and Halifax, via Yarmouth and other way ports. \$7,000

Mr. FOSTER. Is the trip continuous from St. John to Halifax by the same steamer, or is there transshipment to another steamer at Yarmouth?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The line is a continuous one in the sense that it is conducted by the company, but there is transshipment at Yarmouth.

Steam communication from 1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899, between Quebec and Gaspé Basin, touching at intermediate ports ..... \$5,000

Mr. MONTAGUE. May I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether he has under consideration the subject of granting any subventions to steamship lines to South American ports?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. No. As the hon. gentleman will see in the Supplementary Estimates, we have one or two propositions to submit to the House, but we do not propose any subsidies for steamship lines to South America.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I did not ask whether the Government intended to propose them, but whether they proposed to consider the subject.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I cannot say that it is under consideration. It may possibly be taken up, but at present the reports made to us would hardly warrant us in coming down to the House and asking for additional subsidies.

Mr. FOSTER. What, in brief, were the arduous labours of Mr. Sheppard?—I do not mean to Mr. Sheppard; I mean to the country.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The hon. gentleman will have an opportunity of perusing Mr. Sheppard's report, which is published in the last report of the Department of Trade and Commerce. It does not occupy more than 150 pages according to my recollection.

Mr. FOSTER. Would the hon. gentleman save me that labour by stating in brief the substance of Mr. Sheppard's report?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. To say the candid truth, Mr.