

gentleman will find I am correct in saying that there has been no alteration made for some years.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no doubt the contract is all right, and perhaps only requires some change in the verbiage to make the item agree with the contract.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I have here the estimates for 1895-96, which prove that I was correct, as the words are identically the same with those I have used.

Mr. GILLIES. The estimate was amended in the committee just as we are asking to have this amended now. By referring to the contract the hon. gentleman will find that the service now performed is exactly in the way mentioned in the contract between the Government and the company.

Steam communication from 1st April, 1897, to 31st March, 1898, daily, between Port Mulgrave, Arichat and Canso: four trips a week between Port Mulgrave and Guysboro', and from 1st April, 1897, to 30th November, 1897, semi-weekly, between Port Mulgrave and Port Hood, such trips to be extended once each week to Margaree \$8,000

Mr. GILLIES. By what company is this service performed?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. At present by Hugh Cann & Sons, of Yarmouth.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness). I would point out, before we pass this item, that a portion of the duty assigned to that company has not been performed during the past season, namely, the trip to Margaree. I would ask the hon. Minister to take a note of that, and to compel the company to perform their service in full or withhold their appropriation.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I will take a note of that.

Mr. GILLIES. Has a contract been entered into between Hugh Cann & Sons and the Government to run a daily trip between Mulgrave, Arichat and Canso? If so, what is the date? Was this service performed last year under a written contract, and what is the date of that contract?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The contract was simply for the year ending 31st March, 1897, and was apparently a written contract. That contract is now under consideration. If I recollect rightly, the contract was sent to these gentlemen for execution, but has not been returned.

Mr. GILLIES. If that service was undertaken under a written contract, it was very ill-performed. They were under contract to have a daily service from Mulgrave to Canso

and Arichat, and for two weeks at a time there was not even a semi-weekly trip. The boat they had was totally inadequate.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I think they had two boats.

Mr. GILLIES. That makes it worse. It is a difficult service to perform, heavy ice collects there, and a very strong boat is required to do the service properly. An excellent service was given two or three times a week by Mr. McDonald, of Halifax.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There were very grave complaints made to the department as to the services rendered by Mr. McDonald.

Mr. GILLIES. There was no complaint at all as to the regularity of the service performed by him. During the winter he had to perform a weekly service, and I am sure there were not three trips missed during the whole period. Last winter, however, there was constant ground of complaint that the service was not performed at all, owing to the weakness of the boats. I would like the hon. Minister to see that the company puts on a boat fit for the service, and if they miss any trips during the season a certain proportion of their subsidy should be withheld.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I will certainly do that.

Mr. GILLIES. If that is done, they will make some effort to put on a proper boat for the service.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I will make inquiries forthwith and may tell the hon. gentleman that if the service is not properly performed he can rest assured that the parties will not get paid.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness). I quite endorse what my hon. friend has said, that one of the boats is totally unfit for the work. The "J. M. Cann" gives fair enough service, but the "Weymouth" does not. The company should be compelled to put proper boats on the route under their agreement.

Penitentiaries..... \$417,650

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. It was understood that the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) should be here when the penitentiary Estimates were discussed. But if the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) has no objection, we might consider the penitentiary items, reserving one item, with liberty to full discussion, covering the whole penitentiary vote.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think that will meet the case.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). But I want it to be well understood that I wish to observe the spirit of