

at the port of Three Rivers, that his services would not be required after February 1, 1914. The collector of customs at Three Rivers intimated to Mr. Dufresne that if he tendered his resignation the question of granting him three months leave of absence to May 1, 1914, with pay, would be considered.

2. Answered by No. 1.

3. There is no official correspondence on file regarding a successor to Mr. Dufresne.

TRADE AND COMMERCE BULLETIN.

Mr. McCRAVEY:

What persons in the electoral district of Saskatoon receive the bulletin of the Department of Trade and Commerce?

Mr. FOSTER: Cahill & Telford: the Commissioner Board of Trade; Prof. H. Culter, University of Saskatoon; Dominion Sales Corporation; Vernon Grant; Kilvert Bros.; the Saskatoon Forwarding and Storage Co.; Dr. Edmund H. Oliver, University of Saskatoon; J. Hollis Yates.

THE STEAMER ALERT.

On the Orders of the Day being called:

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Customs to a telegram which I have received from a responsible party in Halifax. That telegram reads:

North Sydney despatch says that the Alert sailed again yesterday for North Victoria carrying R. H. Butts and H. D. Maclean and two other political operators.

In view of the discussion of the other night, the assurance given by the minister, and the facts which were made plain to the House that there was no possible excuse for the steamer going north in connection with the customs, will the minister not telegraph to the proper authorities in Sydney directing that she shall not go north again under the circumstances, and ascertain the truth of the statement that these men were on her when she went yesterday.

Hon. J. D. REID (Minister of Customs): I made inquiries from the chief preventive officer as to why this steamer did make the trips to Neil's harbour on the date on which the discussion took place. For your information I shall read the memorandum which has been sent me, showing why the steamer took the first trip to Neil's harbour. The statement is:

On 20th December last Customs Officer Young telegraphed from North Sydney that American fishing schooner Laverna had been fishing within three mile limit at Neil's harbour—that

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

collector of customs had sworn statement signed by five shore fishermen to this effect, and that he despatched cruiser Alert to investigate. Officer Young the same day forwarded two explanatory reports in writing. The contents of said telegram were transferred to the Deputy Minister of the Naval Service for necessary attention.

Meanwhile Officer Young on 22nd December was instructed to forward copies of sworn statements signed by the fishermen.

On 27th December copy of Officer Young's report of 20th December, together with copy of letter from the customs officer at Neil's harbour and copy of the affidavit of the fishermen, was transferred to the Deputy Minister of the Naval Service for his further information.

On the 15th the Deputy Minister of Naval Service wrote enclosing extract and asking for additional details. On the 16th of January, a copy of the extract was forwarded to Mr. Young.

Mr. MACDONALD: This is not in regard to smuggling.

Mr. REID: I want to show why the officer went. On the 20th of January the officer replied that he was despatching the Alert to get all possible information, and on the 23rd of January, officer Young received orders to send the Alert to Neil's harbour, as soon as weather would permit, for the purpose of obtaining all further information possible. On the 23rd of January, when the weather conditions were somewhat unfavourable, the Alert went as far as Ingonish and arrived at Neil's harbour on the 26th of January, but the sea was too rough to permit of the vessel remaining there for the purpose of obtaining the necessary information, and she returned to North Sydney to await more favourable weather. That was the time she took these gentlemen on board, and officer Young has made a report that the vessel took on board two flour barrels and one case. It was not at all likely that there was only whisky in the flour barrels.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. REID: I may say that I had the chief preventive officer wire Mr. Young on the 4th of February as follows:

Where is the Alert now? Do not allow her to take any more passengers or freight at any time without instructions from Ottawa.

I got this telegram in reply to-day:

Alert left here this afternoon for Neil's harbour via Ingonish. Took number passengers with their luggage. Aspy, regular boat on this route laid up. Captain has instructions secure all information possible re Laverna.

I felt that in taking on baggage he was exceeding his authority in view of the in-