

wreck of the ship 'Valencia' about a year ago.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The government have recently established, or are now building, the following aids to navigation, possible life-saving precaution: A lighthouse and fog alarm on Trial Island—recently put in operation, a whistling buoy at Port San Juan. Light and fog alarm at Camanah will be strengthened. A first class lighthouse and fog alarm station is under construction at Pachena Point, and a temporary light is established. Cape Beale lighthouse has been rebuilt, the light will be improved, and a fog alarm will be established next year. A whistling buoy has been established by the United States government on Swiftsure bank. A whistling buoy has been moored in Carolina channel. Small lights have been established on Swale Rock, Barkley Sound, at Amphitrite Point, Ucluelet; at Kyuquot entrance; and at Quatsino entrance. A first-class light is to be built next year on Estevan Point, Hesquot. A system of Marconi wireless telegraph stations will be established along the west coast. A lifeboat has been built and manned and is now in commission in Victoria, and a wide extension of the life-saving service, including the equipment of a motor life-boat is under consideration of the government, to be kept in Barkley Sound. The question of building a coast road is under consideration of the government. This is a matter that ought to fall within the duties of the provincial government, but the premier of British Columbia having notified the Canadian government that he did not consider it a function of the provincial government, the Dominion government are willing to undertake such work as is required in this direction.

LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES ON THE
COAST OF PRINCE EDWARD
ISLAND.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON rose to

Call the attention of the House to the serious loss of life caused by the recent wreck of several vessels on the north coast of Prince Edward Island, and to the absence of life-saving appliances in that locality; and will inquire of the government if they intend taking action to provide absolutely necessary facilities to aid in the preservation of the lives of seamen on that coast?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON.

He said: Hon. gentlemen are, no doubt, aware that early in November we were visited with a series of remarkable storms on that coast and quite a number of ships were cast ashore and many lives lost. It was found that no provision whatever had been found to meet cases of that kind. I shall not take up the time of the House with details of what occurred. Red tapeism in its worse form appeared to stand as an obstacle in the way of obtaining relief. A Finnish barque went ashore on the east point of Prince Edward Island and great difficulty was found in getting the departments or their agents in the province to do anything whatever towards saving those who were wrecked. Several men could be seen from the shore on these wrecks in a most perilous position, and it was known at the time that several lives had been lost. One of the sailors who drifted ashore was still alive, but in a very serious condition. Notwithstanding that state of things the agent of the Department of Marine and Fisheries would not move or do anything without the authority of the department at Ottawa. Finally when a life boat was obtained the Department of Railways would not run a special train to Souris unless \$60 was paid. Finally a private citizen put up the \$60, and the life-boat was dispatched. All this time valuable human lives were in peril and some were actually lost while official red tapeism stood in the way and prevented anything being done. Very great feeling arose in the province on the subject, and while the officials of the government could not do anything, apparently from the strictness of their orders, and the manner in which they were tied down by the departments in Ottawa, two brave young men whose names will be long remembered in Canada, I hope, Austin Grady and Duncan Campbell, finally took a dory and faced the sea in a terrible state of commotion, went to the wreck, took off three men and saved their lives. While this heroism was being displayed by the people of the locality, public spirit was aroused to the extent of private citizens paying the fares on railways when the officials of the government would not do anything. My object is not so much to call attention to this, though the blame must rest somewhere for the state of things I have