

Mr. DANIEL. Does the government not know how long the amount of carbide that is put into one of these buoys is supposed to last?

Mr. BRODEUR. It is supposed to last for some months. Sometimes it happens that the supply does not need to be renewed for three or four months. But the buoys are visited much oftener, in order to see that the light is well maintained, and to renew it with carbide if necessary.

Mr. DANIEL. I think in the case of the Old Proprietor buoy that went wrong, the evidence was that it had not been visited within a year.

Mr. BRODEUR. That was at a time when we had only one ship, the 'Lansdowne,' there, which is not a very fast ship, and according to the evidence, she tried several times to get near that buoy and replenish the light. But it was found impossible for some reason or other, and the buoy went wrong. I see by the reports which we have that since the 'Stanley' has been on the route there has been such an improvement that no complaints have reached the department.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Would the minister be good enough to bring along with him a statement of the total amount received by the Marconi Company for the 18,000 messages that they forwarded, and if possible the profits that they made out of these stations? Would the minister also be good enough to give us the reason why the government should build these important stations and place them in the hands of the Wireless Telegraph Company?

Mr. BRODEUR. These stations were built as aids to navigation. Most of them are situated at places where no business was expected. It was found necessary in the interests of navigation that these wireless telegraph stations should be established along the St. Lawrence in order that if an accident occurred to a vessel plying on these waters she could put herself into communication with Montreal and Quebec and receive succour. I will be very glad to supply my hon. friend with the information if we have it in the department.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. We gave them 18,000 messages, amounting to 265,000 words, showing that considerable business is being done, and while I appreciate the work that is being done I wonder why it is not under government control.

Mr. BRODEUR. These messages are government messages, and there is no money coming to the company out of them. This business is done on the Pacific coast, not by the Marconi Company, but by the government system of wireless which is established there.

Mr. BRODEUR.

Mr. WILSON (Lennox and Addington). How many lighthouses have we in Newfoundland, and what does it cost us to maintain them?

Mr. BRODEUR. I will supply the list in a moment.

Mr. REID (Grenville). I take it for granted that these vessels that go around visiting the lights, &c., are all charged up to the vote for the construction of lighthouses?

Mr. BRODEUR. Not all the vessels.

Mr. REID (Grenville). A good many are used for that purpose?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes.

Mr. REID (Grenville). And they are charged to this account?

Mr. BRODEUR. No, I have made a change this year.

Mr. REID (Grenville). I see by the heading that they are charged to this account.

Mr. BRODEUR. For the hiring of vessels. We have not changed the vote because sometimes we may want vessels for the purpose of carrying out our work. But I have adopted a different system this year. I thought it would be more convenient for every member of this House if all the Dominion steamers were put under one vote. If my hon. friend will look at the vote for Dominion steamers he will find an increase which provides for an expenditure under that vote on vessels that formerly came under the item for the maintenance of vessels.

Mr. REID (Grenville). As I understand there are some vessels used in connection with the construction of lights. This item is more than construction. In last year's Auditor General's Report we see the headings: 'Construction of Lights, Aids to Navigation', &c.

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes, there were some last year, but I am changing the system. I thought that all these vessels should be put under the one vote of Dominion steamers. But we have left the vote as it was before because it may be necessary to hire boats to carry out our work. In British Columbia, which has a very extensive coast, we are carrying on some very large construction work. It may be necessary, in order to carry out this work expeditiously, to hire boats, and in order to do that we provide in this estimate for the hiring of boats.

Mr. REID (Grenville). The item in the estimates is:

Construction of lighthouses and aids to navigation, including apparatus, submarine signals, and providing suitable boats for car-