

Mr. FIELDING. The debate scared them off.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. No, there is a very small number of them this year.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Perhaps if you just made believe to have these establishments they would not come around the coast.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. We would not spend the money then.

Lighthouse and coast surveys, further amount for Parry Sound, buoy depot, \$15,000.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. This is to provide for the administration of the Parry Sound buoy depot which was established last year.

Salaries and allowances lighthouse keepers, \$25,000.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. This is to provide for the salaries of the new lighthouse keepers that may be appointed in the course of the year and also to provide for an increase of salary for the lighthouse keepers all over Canada from the Pacific to the Atlantic. It has been represented to me, and I have come to the conclusions that the representations were well founded, that the lighthouse keepers were not paid what they were entitled to and orders have been given that a general list should be made of the lighthouse keepers in the different parts of the country and that we will try to adjust their salaries so that they will be sufficient. Some are paid only \$50 a year and others \$300. Of course those who are paid \$50 have little to do and others who are paid \$300 have to devote nearly all their time to the work. Others are paid more than this because they are on islands far from settlements, and have to provide themselves with every necessity of life. It is a matter which deserves the attention of the government and of the department and I think the amount of \$25,000 is not an excessive amount to provide for the new lighthouse keepers and also for equalizing their salaries. Of course whatever will not be required will be returned to the treasury.

Construction of lighthouses and aids to navigation, including apparatus, \$675,000.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. This is the most important item of my supplementary estimates. It is to provide for a renewal of the greater number of the most important lights on the route of the St. Lawrence, and also to provide for better lighting on the lakes and on the Atlantic coast. The amount which will be required to perfect this service will be about \$2,000,000, according to the reports of my officers. We have reduced the amount to \$675,000, which will cover all that we can do during the present season. Some of the apparatus are very complicated instruments, and it takes a very long time to have them constructed, installed and put into operation. Most of the apparatus are not built in Canada. We

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have to secure them from the best makers in England and in France. After these installations have been made, the St. Lawrence route from the ocean will be almost completely equipped, and Canada will compare with any other country in the world in this respect. As a result, we think the insurance companies will reduce their rates more and more from year to year. We have already in 1904 obtained a reduction of twenty per cent, which amounts to about \$750,000 of saving in one season on the cargoes and hulls of steamers. We think we should obtain a reduction of fifty per cent, and when we do, our ports will be on the same footing as the ports of New York, Boston, Newport News, and all the Atlantic ports of the United States. I may say that every item of this vote of \$675,000 has been recommended by the Lighthouse Board, the Shipping Federation and every one connected with navigation. I think that with this expenditure, made chiefly on the St. Lawrence route, very little will be required in the next few years to complete the work.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. How much of this is to be expended on the St. Lawrence, and how much on the lakes?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. I have not the details here, but if my hon. friend will allow me, I will lay on the table to-morrow a statement of the exact division of this expenditure, giving the location of each lighthouse, the kind of apparatus to be installed and the estimate for each.

Mr. HENDERSON. May I ask the minister if in this list he will be good enough to include the lighthouse which he promised two or three years ago at the village of Bronte? It will not cost more than \$200 or \$300. I think I had the promise of the hon. gentleman on two or three occasions. On one occasion, when I explained the necessity of the work, he admitted that I had made out a good case, and I hope he will now give me the assurance that I can take home with me, that this lighthouse, which is very urgently needed, will be constructed.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. I am glad to assure the hon. gentleman that, as I said last session, as soon as the pier which is being constructed by the Department of Public Works is finished, the light will be installed.

Mr. HENDERSON. I am glad to hear that, only I regret that the Minister of Public Works is perpetuating the construction of the pier to such an extent that I fear we shall all be 'oslerized' before he gets through with it. However, I am delighted to receive the promise of the hon. minister.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. minister the importance of placing storm signals at some of the lighthouses, especially the more prominent ones on the headlands. At present storm signals are placed in the harbours, and are for the benefit of seamen contem-