

winter time, a boat should not be placed in the vicinity of Digby to render aid to shipping that might require it. I am quite sure that if the Halifax agency has a spare boat she would cheerfully be sent to Digby for the winter season.

Mr. BRODEUR. The department has not reached a decision with regard to the change, and I was simply wishing to get an expression from the committee with regard to it. I will take into serious consideration what the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Crosby) has said.

Mr. JAMESON. I hope the minister does not lose sight of what I consider to be the chief point in this matter. I am not interested, as my hon. friend from Halifax is, in the maintenance of the agency there in its present status, but I am very much interested in seeing that one of the two vessels now at St. John should be placed at Digby. I mention Digby because it is a central point, lying between the counties of Yarmouth and Annapolis, which are largely interested in fishing. Digby has an excellent harbour and a vessel located there would be available for the needs of shipping in these counties. In the Bay of Fundy shipping is increasing, and the aids to navigation are increasing in importance and number, and we hope to see St. John one of the great national ports. I do not think that the status of the agency at Halifax or at St. John would be at all altered by stationing one of the boats at Digby, and my only wish to-night is to have an expression of opinion from the minister on that point regardless of whether he is to change the agency at St. John or Halifax in a minor way. I am not concerned at this moment with the convenience or profit of gentlemen living on shore. My concern is for the safety, welfare and comfort of those engaged in fishing and shipping on the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. BRODEUR. These two ships are mainly devoted to the lighthouse and buoy service on the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Fundy down as far as Grand Manan. They both are located at St. John for the present. Digby is connected with the Halifax agency, and those two boats are under the control of the St. John agency. When we come to the consideration of the question of dividing the agencies the suggestion made by my hon. friend (Mr. Jameson) will be considered.

Mr. JAMESON. Are we to conclude from the remarks of the minister that if it is not possible for him to make some such change as he suggests it will not be possible to place one of these boats at Digby? The hon. member for Guysborough was pleased to say that the minister had acceded cheerfully and promptly to a request he made last winter for a vessel for the purpose of

Mr. CROSBY.

assisting in saving life and property when such assistance was needed. I made a similar request to the minister on behalf of the fishermen of western Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy. If the minister can not have one of the vessels at St. John transferred to Digby will he make provision that some other vessel should be placed there? The hon. member (Mr. Crosby) has suggested that a boat for this service might be found at Halifax, and while I do not know how many boats are available there, yet, as the Bay of Fundy portion of Nova Scotia is under control of the Halifax agency the minister might be able to supply the needs of the people from that point. I appeal to the minister to have a boat stationed at Digby during the winter season so that the fishermen on that coast may have reasonable assurance that in the event of an accident they will at least have a chance for their lives.

Mr. BRODEUR. The situation on the Bay of Fundy is not the same as at Canso. On the Bay of Fundy, as my hon. friend is aware, we had formerly only one boat. We have two now; so that if anything should happen to the fishermen there, it would be only necessary to acquaint the agency at St. John of the fact, and these boats would be available. While they are primarily for the buoy and lighthouse service, they have instructions also to look after the protection of the fishermen. As St. John is not very far from Digby, I do not think there is the same difficulty there that there is at Canso, which is so distant from Halifax that it was considered advisable that a small boat should be placed there. If I saw the same necessity of placing a boat at Digby, I would certainly do it immediately; but in view of the fact that on the opposite side of the bay there are two boats which can be called upon at a moment's notice, I think the fishermen operating in the vicinity of Digby are sufficiently protected.

Mr. JAMESON. How many boats are at Halifax?

Mr. BRODEUR. Two.

Mr. JAMESON. As I feared at the outset, I am afraid the minister does not take very kindly to the suggestion I made, and it is perhaps as well that we should understand where we are in this matter. I do not agree with the minister that the fishermen on the Nova Scotia side of the Bay of Fundy are sufficiently protected by the boats at St. John, which is 45 miles from Digby. I do not know that these boats steam over nine knots an hour, and would mean several hours delay, and every person familiar with the conditions of fishing in the Bay of Fundy knows that such a delay might mean the loss of the lives of the people exposed to danger. The minis-