

state whether he would accede to the hon. gentleman's wishes. To appoint a Commissioner of Wrecks would be a step in the right direction, and would probably prevent the loss of many wrecks. He should be sorry to say that our master mariners would throw away a ship. He believed they were a very excellent class of men; but cases might occur in which, for want of supervision, ships might be thrown away. It might be said that the underwriters should look after the matter; no doubt they did, but sometimes before they could get to the place where a wreck occurred, it was surveyed, sold and beyond their reach. He thought the Minister of Marine should seriously consider whether a Commissioner or some other person should at once proceed to a wreck and hold an official investigation.

MR. McCALLUM: The hon. gentleman says before the underwriters can get to the scene of a wreck the vessel is sold? By whom is it sold?

MR. GOUDGE: By those who surveyed it.

MR. McCALLUM: And would you have the Government to do the business of the underwriters?

MR. DAVIES said it was not so much a question for the underwriters as for the owners of ships, because they fixed the rates, and the owners had to pay them.

Vote agreed to.

123 Expenses in connection with Canadian Registration of Shipping.....	\$500 00
124 Montreal Water Police...	14,090 00

MR. BUNSTER said there were no Water Police at British Columbia where they would be of great advantage in the way of arresting deserters from Her Majesty's navy.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: There is no tax on the ships there.

MR. BUNSTER: Then you should put a tax on our shipping and give us a Water Police.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: If I am in my place next Session, I will introduce a measure of that character.

Vote agreed to.

MR. GOUDGE.

124. River Water Police..... \$23,500.

MR. BLANCHET: Perhaps the Minister of Marine will state what changes have been made in that Department. I know that Mr. Miller took Mr. Russell's place, as shipping-master, and it is reported that the situation of Chief of the River Police is vacant.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: I may say frankly that a change is contemplated, but it has not been effected yet.

Vote agreed to.

126. Removal of Obstructions in Navigable Rivers..... \$500

MR. LANGEVIN: Will the hon. gentleman say what was done with this money last year?

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: Up to the 20th June, 1877, we expended \$193 for removing obstructions in Summer-side Harbour, and \$12 in advertisements giving notice of some obstructions. These are the only items I know of, but I will look into the matter further, and give the hon. gentleman the information he desires.

MR. STEPHENS said, in the county which he represented, there was a river called Sydney River, and the customs paid last year on the shipping in a port some miles up, amounted to \$3,387.10; in 1876, the duties amounted to \$2,950.86; and in 1875, to \$3,298.34, making a total of \$9,636.30, a great part of which was collected on the imports of a vessel which plied between that port, Detroit and the city of Brisbane. Two other steamers also plied now between the same ports. From the shipping of the River Thames in the same county, \$19,087.76 were collected in 1875, \$23,332.70 in 1876, and \$23,696.45 in 1877, making a total of \$66,116.91, and for the two rivers a total of \$75,753.21. He held then that the sum of \$500 asked in this vote was a very paltry one and would not suffice for the two rivers he had referred to.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH said his hon. friend was under a misapprehension. The object of this grant was merely to remove artificial obstructions, such as timber in rivers and harbours, but did not apply to natural obstructions or the improvement of rivers.