

interests of the country. The great difficulty under which that gentleman labors has been referred to by my hon. friend—that of the want of the means necessary to establish an efficient night service by getting information from all parts of the country. This is a point which has been strongly urged by Mr. Carpmael himself, and it is obvious to every one that, if it is worth while to do the work at all, it is worth while to do it thoroughly, even if it is somewhat more expensive to the country. Of the predictions which had been made by this service more than 80 per cent. had been verified. The modern improvements by telegraph, their acquaintance with the law of storms, and knowledge of the course pursued, of the storm movements, which are heralded by the difference in the atmospheric pressure, enable these gentlemen to predict with great certainty, for at least twenty-four hours in advance, any great atmospheric change. We are so accustomed to see these predictions, that we make our calculations accordingly, and seldom find they are wrong. The gentleman who is in charge of the Observatory put into my hands last year a memorandum showing the exact course of the great storm in which the steamer *Waubano* was wrecked in Georgian Bay. The course of that storm was predicted, and the prediction proved accurate in almost every essential particular. If the information could have been transmitted at an earlier hour to the point from which that steamer started, the lamentable loss of life and destruction of property that resulted would have been avoided, as well as other destruction of property which occurred in the vicinity during the storm. That loss would have compensated for any additional expense to which the Government would have been subjected in making the service as efficient as it could be made. I cannot dwell too strongly on the fact that this is a matter which has not yet claimed the amount of public attention and favor to which it is entitled. It is not only a matter of great importance to the commercial interests, but to every farmer, especially during the harvest time. If these reports were posted at the village post office, or other special points to which the farmer is daily accustomed to go, thousands of dollars would be saved to our agricultural community, during the time of gathering in the harvest, through the mere fact of knowing, six, ten or twenty hours in advance, that any change of weather was going to take place. The information given by this service should be disseminated everywhere. Up to last year the sum at the control of the Superintendent of the Observatory was insufficient to enable him to use the information in his power in the most effective manner. It seems to me that a small addition in the yearly Estimates would probably effect so advantageous a change in the system, by enabling the Superintendent to get out his reports in time, that it would be one of the most effective and essential services that the Government could do; not only to the commercial but to the farming interests of the country. I trust the few feeble words with which I have endeavored to back up my hon. friend's application, and enforce the arguments he has used, will be of some avail in calling the attention of the Government and this House, and through this House the public, to the great use of that work and the great necessity which devolves upon us, now that we have the means in our hands, to make the most effective use of that means.

Mr. McLELLAN. The information asked for, will be found in the report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. The object the hon. gentleman had in view was to call the attention of the House to the value of this service. I am satisfied this service is of great value to the country, and as the public learn to be guided by the warnings issued by that branch of the Department, the Government will be called on to pay more attention to the service and render it more efficient. A very large expenditure is incurred by telegraphic messages, but I am satis-

fied that something in addition in the direction indicated might be of value.

Mr. PLUMB. Simply to get the night service, that is all we want.

Mr. McLELLAN. Yes.

Mr. BUNSTER. It affords me much pleasure to hear the hon. Minister say the Government will give more attention in the future, to the motion before the House, and I hope in so doing he will not neglect British Columbia.

Motion agreed to.

COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron), in moving for all correspondence between the Government and the County Court Judges of the Dominion and others respecting the resolution submitted to the House during the last Session of Parliament, by the late Minister of Justice, on the subject of the proposed increase of the salary of such Judges, said: Last Session the hon. Minister of Justice submitted to the House, a resolution in the following words:—

"To the Judge of the County Court of each County, Union of Counties or District in Ontario, of which the population exceeds fifty thousand, \$2,000 per year, for the first three years; \$2,400 per year for the second three years, and \$3,000 per year thereafter. The period of service of a Judge now in office to be counted, but the increase of salary not to take effect retrospectively."

That resolution remained on the Notice Paper of the House for a period of nearly two months, and just at the close of the Session the then Minister of Justice withdrew the resolution without assigning any reason, except that at that period of the Session it was too late to deal with the matter exhaustively and intelligently. Now, there is no doubt in the world that the Government did propose making some additional arrangements with respect to the salaries of the Judges of the County Courts by way of increasing them. The Government withdrew that resolution without any reason that I am aware of for that course. I assume that, when the Government submitted that resolution to the House, they must have concluded there was a necessity for it—must have had some reason for it. It was not acted upon, however, I assume, after due and careful consideration; and if the Government gave it such consideration, then I would like to know why it was the resolution was withdrawn, and that, so far, this Session it has not been re-introduced. I am aware these Judges naturally take a deep interest in this question. I believe that, at a meeting of the Judges, a deputation was appointed to wait on the Government, and that it did so within the last few days, with a view of ascertaining whether or not the Government now intends to make the increase proposed by the resolution I have just read. Of course I know not what answer the Government gave or course it proposes to take; but I trust that, having submitted the resolution I read to the House last Session, the Government will not allow the matter to drop now. Now, why did the Government abandon those resolutions? Was it because the additional sum it was proposed to give the Judges would necessarily add to the people's burden? If so, there is a very simple way by which this difficulty can be overcome, and the Judges of the Court get the increased salary without, in my judgment, adding to these burdens. I observe the Government have introduced, through the Minister of Justice in another branch, a Bill with respect to the County Court Judges, and it provides that no junior County Court Judges shall be appointed in any county with a population less than 70,000. I think that a step in the right direction. It does appear absurd that junior Judges should be appointed in some counties with under 40,000 inhabitants, while others, with a population of over 60,000, are without them, and where, of course, business is larger than in the less densely peopled