

is said on this side and would give whatever answer he can give to the questions put, it would take less time than it otherwise must to pass these estimates.

The hon. gentleman says that we object to the steps that were taken to keep open the harbour. As a matter of fact, no objection of that kind was made. We admit that the department did endeavour, in its own stupid, blundering way, to do its duty in this matter, and it did it, but in the ineffective way in which things have been done by this department for the last three or four years. You would have thought that even an office boy would have known what to do in the particular case we have been discussing. Yet, apparently, nobody in the department knew. You sent an officer up to Port Arthur. Instead of making a contract, as any business man could have done, he had a conversation in an informal way—I suppose, in some convenient place where one can talk and do other things at the same time. He comes back, and I suppose, everything is regarded as satisfactory by the department. But no binding bargain was made and that is what we find fault with. If the bargain had been made in black and white which appears to have been made verbally the country would have been \$8,000 or \$10,000 better off. Now, there may be a complete answer to that, but surely, it is clear what we mean when we make such statements;—it is clear that we are not finding fault with the keeping open of the harbour, but with the blundering way in which it was done. It has been stated here that the department paid altogether too much for these tugs. There is this 'Siskiwit', for instance. I do not know whether she is six horse-power or sixty horse-power. It occurred to me, the other night, when the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) and the minister were discussing her that possibly she was six horse-power in the winter and sixty horse-power in the summer, or vice versa. It occurred to me also that if more business acumen had been displayed in this work of keeping open the harbour of Port Arthur, we should have had less complaint to make. If, instead of pushing the ice about the port in front of them, these tugs had loaded the ice and taken it to shore, some expense might have been saved, considering the figure that is paid for ice in the summer by this department. People in Ottawa, Toronto and other places who take ice in the summer may be surprised to know that the department pays \$40 a ton for ice when they need it. It naturally occurs to one that when a department spends thousands of dollars to push the ice away at one season, and then buys ice at \$40 a ton at another season, the country would have been better served if it had arranged the work differently.

Mr. BENNETT. Will the minister explain why \$400 was paid at Midland to his Mr. NORTHROP.

party friend? I see the item in the Auditor General's Report—tug \$40 a day for ten days. Who certified that the tug was employed for ten days. I happened to be at home recently and made inquiries about this. I could not find a man who knew that that tug had been employed at all.

Mr. BRODEUR. The tug was under commission of the department engaged in the lighthouse service.

Mr. BENNETT. Who certified that the tug had been employed for ten days? And what was the name of the tug?

Mr. BRODEUR. Mr. Fraser tells me that he is not sure of the name of the tug. We will find out and let the hon. gentleman know.

Mr. BENNETT. Who certified that the tug had been working ten days?

Mr. BRODEUR. The lighthouse keeper.

Mr. BENNETT. There is no lighthouse in the bay at all.

Mr. BRODEUR. Mr. Fraser informs me that it is done in that way. I will inquire and find out. Of course, I was not there and know nothing about these accounts.

Mr. BENNETT. I would like to ask about another account connected with that part of the country. I may tell the minister that in that section of Georgian bay, since the deposition of the Ross government in Ontario, this harbour is the only place where these harpies can prey. They ask to be maintained by the Dominion government as they were maintained for years by the local government. The minister should take this as a warning to beware of the crowd in that part of the bay. At page P—96 of the Auditor General's Report I find items of payments to the steamer 'Seguin', \$9,133.28. In what employment was the 'Seguin' engaged?

Mr. BRODEUR. In connection with the construction work below Quebec.

Mr. BENNETT. For the benefit of the people in that neighbourhood I am going to have placed in 'Hansard', so that it may get into the newspapers there, the figures to show the generous manner in which the department treats the owner of the 'Seguin', who is a very good party friend of hon. gentlemen opposite. Now the 'Seguin' was sent down on this trip, and I find there was an expenditure on her behalf of \$9,133.28. This generous government did the following work:

Wm. Doyle, Quebec, sundry hardware, \$77.34; F. X. Drolet, Quebec, sundry foundry work, steamfittings, repairs, &c., \$1,615.93; Lavoie Electric Company, Quebec, 1 dynamo communicator refilled, \$50; Martineau Company, Quebec, cooking utensils and tableware, \$79.60; P. E. Perreault, Quebec, chemical fire extinguishers, 6 at \$14, \$84; Slade Electric Com-