

depend on the statement which the minister makes rather than upon any political pull or influence as supporters of the government. If the minister desires to improve the efficiency of the department there should be no reason why this suggestion should not be carried out.

Mr. BRODEUR. We have an agency in New Brunswick which controls the Bay of Fundy on the New Brunswick side and also looks after the lights and buoys on the north shore of New Brunswick. It is very far away and it is very difficult to carry out the work we have to do there. If we came to an arrangement such as that suggested we would, of course, have to transfer the supervision of the lights on the north shore of New Brunswick to the agency in Prince Edward Island. The agent in Prince Edward Island has charge of the lights in Northumberland strait on the island side, and he might more easily look after the lights on the New Brunswick side than the agent at St. John. As to the question of the Bay of Fundy, I am very glad that my hon. friend seems to agree with the views that I have expressed as to the possibility of putting the whole of the Bay of Fundy under the agency of St. John. If that meets with the general approval of the committee I would be very glad to take it into my serious consideration. My hon. friend says that this is the only occasion when hon. members can approach the minister. Let me tell him that the minister is always open to conviction and open to representation in every case and that all the members of the House will always be welcome to discuss with him public questions and especially any question which appertains to the administration of the department with which he is now concerned.

Mr. JAMESON. I am glad to hear it. Will the minister just say what committee he refers to when he speaks of the committee consenting to this?

Mr. BRODEUR. This committee.

Mr. JAMESON. I do not think there is any trouble here.

Mr. CROSBY. If I understand my hon. friend from Digby (Mr. Jameson), his desire is to have a boat placed at Digby during the winter season?

Mr. JAMESON. Yes, that is it.

Mr. CROSBY. I do not know that it will be an advantage to take the supervision of the lighthouses of Nova Scotia from the agency at Halifax and place the supervision of the whole of the western part of the province under the agency of St. John. My hon. friend wants to get a boat at Digby and no doubt he would like

to have it come from St. John. I do not think it would make any difference to him whether it came from Halifax or St. John during the winter season. It would be of no advantage to Digby if the supervision of the western part of Nova Scotia were placed under the agency at St. John, if they did not send a boat over to Digby. I apprehend no difficulty about the whole of Nova Scotia being fairly well looked after from the port of Halifax. There is no place in the Dominion where the Department of Marine and Fisheries has more accommodation than in Halifax and it does not cost very much either. There can be no reason to suggest that Digby would be any better off by the fact of the agency for the western part of Nova Scotia being transferred from Halifax to St. John if they did not get a boat at Digby. I quite agree with my hon. friend that it would be well if the minister could see his way clear to place a boat at Digby because quite a large fishing business is done there. Its geographical situation is rather peculiar and sometimes in the great Bay of Fundy there are difficulties to overcome. These boats are always ready to render any assistance in the saving of life and property and it would be a great advantage to have one of them at Digby during the winter. I think the minister should consider how he could meet the views of my hon. friend from Digby whose request would also apply to the counties of Annapolis and Yarmouth, the county of Yarmouth being a very important one in the fishing business. I think that the placing of a boat at Digby during the winter season would meet the desire of my hon. friend from Digby.

Mr. JAMESON. Yes, it is a central point.

Mr. CROSBY. Therefore, I do not think there would be any great necessity for changing the agency at all.

Mr. BRODEUR. I think my hon. friend will admit that the lighthouses on the Bay of Fundy can be better looked after from St. John than Halifax.

Mr. CROSBY. I would not like to admit that without consideration. The coal is purchased from the Dominion Coal Company, and there is no place where you can get your supplies so easily as in Halifax, and no place so pleasant to come to and to remain in. Before the minister makes a change of that kind I would like him to take into serious consideration the disadvantage it would be to those who have been furnishing supplies for years. It seems to me that the demand made by the hon. member for Digby might be endorsed by the hon. members for Annapolis and Yarmouth. I can see no reason why, in the