

## SUPPLY—MARINE AND FISHERIES—AGENCIES.

Rents and contingencies, \$18,750.

*Armstrong, Jos. E.* (East Lambton)—3604.

Is it the custom of the department to ask for tenders for anything over \$5,000?—3604. I find the statement that at Belle Isle a lighthouse was erected at a cost of \$13,208.94, by day labour—3604. I wish to back up my hon. friend from Grenville. I had to purchase coal myself at a greatly increased price in Peterborough, Ont.—3613. I have bought within the past year between 600 and 800 tons at \$3.25 a ton. In the month of December I would not have to pay over \$2.80 a ton—3614.

*Bennett, W. H.* (East Simcoe)—3594.

On page P—96, the minister might explain what this boat, the 'Seguin,' was employed for—3594. Contrasts the appropriation of 1896 with that of the present year—3601. As to the Georgian Bay, you have not built a lighthouse in the lower part of the lake, and you have done nothing to carry out the recommendations of the Transportation Commission with respect to the lights—3602. In 1896 the department expended \$480,000; now it is over \$2,000,000. If you are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars without competition, you are bound to have increased expenditure—3603. The minister sat in this House from 1891 to 1896, and did he ever see it proved on the floor of this House that a member of parliament for steering graft in a department, received \$100,000 worth of stock, as was shown in the Ottawa case?—3604.

*Bergeron, J. G. H.* (Beauharnois)—3608.

What price was paid?—3608.

*Blain, Richard* (Peel)—3607.

Was it to be Canadian coal?—3607. May I ask the hon. member (Mr. T. Martin) what kind of coal he refers to?

*Boyce, A. C.* (West Algoma)—3593.

Do I understand the minister to say that there are only six clerks employed in the agency? Is a bedstead a necessary accessory to these offices?—3543. How much of the \$1,000 has the contractor earned?—3594.

*Brodeur, Hon. L. P.* (Minister of Marine and Fisheries)—3591.

This item is in connection with the agencies in the different parts of the country—3591. The expenditure for chairs, &c., is not for the six employees, but for other officers, the sitting of the pilot court, and receiving of delegations—3592. The late minister thought it advisable to have all the officers in one building instead of in different parts of the city, and under this arrangement less rent was paid. The bedstead is for the caretaker—3593. There was a contract for the fitting up of the court. The account for the 'Seguin' will come under the construction of 'H's' later on. There must be between twelve and fifteen rooms in these offices. The steamboat inspectors brought very little

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*Brodeur, Hon. L. P.* (Minister of Marine and Fisheries)—Con.

furniture to the new building—3594. The law provides that in the case of an expenditure of \$5,000 and over, tenders must be advertised for; this is an item of only \$2,000—3595. Now that I have been asking for tenders for coal, which was required at Sorel, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Reid) is dissatisfied because we have called for tenders—3593. The hon. member says he is willing to help the coal miners of Nova Scotia and yet he wanted to delay the opening of tenders to enable an American firm, the Edwardsburg Starch Company, to put in a tender. There was no strike in Nova Scotia—3599. I have asked for Canadian coal, and the tenders provide for Canadian coal, but the hon. gentlemen (Mr. Reid) wanted me to buy American coal—3600. Did not my hon. friend ask me to delay in order that an American company could tender for the supply of that coal?—3601. Where does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) get the figures that only one-half million was spent by the department in 1896? The Marine Department alone spent \$793,000 in 1896, independent of fisheries—3602. We are improving the St. Lawrence channel so that now vessels can go from Quebec to Montreal without accident, and thus save in insurance. Think of buying buoys by competition when there are only two firms in the world that makes them. The government wants to help progress and wants to help navigation—3603. I have seen members of parliament and colleagues of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) sent to jail. We generally follow the statute and ask for tenders for anything over \$5,000—3604. The work referred to by Mr. Armstrong was done by day labour. The amount paid for insurance on the St. Lawrence last year, was very much less than that paid ten or fifteen years ago. It is due to the fact that we have made navigation more safe—3605. Mr. J. D. Reid charged me personally with having given contracts without any tender. Will he give an instance?—3606. What the gentleman says is absolutely unfounded—3607. In the specifications it was distinctly stated that the coal was to be a Canadian coal. The advertisement refers to the specifications—3608. My hon. friend (Mr. J. D. Reid) might give the balance of the conversation. He said to me, 'If you do not allow me this, you may be sure you will have trouble in passing your estimates.'—3609. That letter was written after the time for receiving tenders was over—3610. My hon. friend (Mr. J. D. Reid) is making—I do not know for what purpose—most extraordinary statements every time my estimates are discussed. He said he could get coal at \$2.90 in Prescott—3611. If we are in need of coal, and I call for tenders, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. J. D. Reid) asks me to extend the time to give his American friends a chance to tender for the coal, I must tell him that I shall not accede to his proposition—3612. The