

Mr. BRODEUR. The policy of the department is to call for public tenders. The tenders are in and are now engaging our attention, and the contract will probably be awarded this week. I would be very glad to see some one from Halifax taking sufficient interest in naval construction to put in a tender for those ships, but I am afraid that none has tendered. As to the government undertaking its construction, I doubt whether that would be advisable, seeing that we have in this country several shipyards belonging to private parties who are willing to tender. It would be just as well to leave that to private initiative.

Mr. CROSBY. The ship will be built in Canada anyhow?

Mr. BRODEUR. I hope so.

Mr. CROSBY. But the minister is not certain. Instead of having this built in England, the government would do better to undertake the work themselves and build it in their own shipyards.

Mr. BRODEUR. We shall be guided by the tenders which are in, and I have every reason to believe that the contract will go to a Canadian firm.

Mr. CROSBY. Is the time for tendering up?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes.

Mr. DANIEL. Is this boat to be built of steel?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes.

Mr. DANIEL. What will be the length, depth and width?

Mr. BRODEUR. Length 170 feet, 32 feet beam and 10 feet draught.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). Was there a vote last year to cover this expenditure?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes, but we did not use the money, because we are just making the contract.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). You do not say it is a revote.

Mr. BRODEUR. It is a revote.

Mr. BLAIN. Are there any tenders from outside Canada?

Mr. BRODEUR. I would not like to give any information now because the tenders are under consideration, but I think there are.

Mr. CROSBY. I do not think there would be any harm in saying whether there were tenders from outside of Canada.

Mr. BRODEUR. I think there are.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). I have just sent upstairs and I find that there are no returns brought down in my name. There

are returns brought down in the names of Mr. Monk and Mr. Blondin, but they do not apply to the district west of Montreal. They have reference to the district between Quebec and Montreal and the river and gulf of St. Lawrence. The return I asked for has not been brought down yet.

Mr. BRODEUR. I am surprised, because I was almost sure that all the returns affecting my department had been brought down.

For the purchase or construction of a light-house and buoy steamer for the Pacific coast, \$200,000.

Mr. BRODEUR. This is a revote. The contract for the construction of this steamer has been awarded to the Collingwood Shipbuilding Company, a Canadian company, for \$260,000. The other night I was very much criticised for having given a contract to Vickers, Sons & Maxim. Vickers, Sons & Maxim were lower tenderers in this case than the Canadian shipbuilders, but I gave it to the Canadian company.

Mr. BARNARD. What is the size of this ship?

Mr. BRODEUR. The dimensions will be as follow: length, 200 feet over all; beam, 43 feet; draught, 12 feet; speed, 12 knots.

Mr. BARNARD. Is she to be constructed of steel or wood?

Mr. BRODEUR. Steel.

Mr. BARNARD. I would like to ask the minister if he does not think it would have been very much more advantageous to the service in that province to have used the 'Kestrel' for this service, and to have built a proper fisheries protection cruiser. He could have built a cruiser, or possibly two small ones, for the same amount of money, and thus have provided a fishery protection service. The 'Kestrel' has done this work at different times and she is just as good, if not a very much better ship than the present lighthouse tender—the 'Quadra.' I would ask if that would not be a far better disposal of that amount of money than to build this new ship?

Mr. BRODEUR. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Barnard) is mistaken with regard to the 'Kestrel' being used for this service. The 'Kestrel' is engaged in the fisheries protection service.

Mr. BARNARD. She does not protect anything.

Mr. BRODEUR. Well, I think she is doing fairly good work. I do not think she would be of any use however for the lighthouse service. That requires a dif-