

Maintenance and repairs to lighthouses, \$850,000.

Mr. GUTHRIE: How much was spent last year on the service may I ask?

Mr. LAPOINTE: The expenditure last year was \$800,411.62.

Mr. GUTHRIE: You propose an increase of \$50,000?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes. The money required under this appropriation is for the purpose of defraying the cost of maintenance of aids to navigation including the cost of supplies, fuel, illuminants, cleaning materials, delivering supplies, including freight and cartage, etc., also the cost of repairs to such aids to navigation including material and labour. I could give a statement in tabular form covering the last ten years, which would indicate, year by year, the growth of the service in principal aids to navigation and the cost of maintenance.

Item agreed to.

Construction of lights and aids to navigation, including regulation of traffic in the Detroit river and such other places as may be found necessary, \$400,000.

Mr. LEWIS: Does this relate to the construction of lighthouses, and other aids to navigation? I notice the previous item has reference to lights, gas and signal buoys, etc.?

Mr. LAPOINTE: From this vote is provided all new aids to navigation, such as lighthouses, buoys, beacons, fog alarms and submarine signals, including apparatus and machinery, as well as large repairs to existing aids and the replacing of obsolete buildings and apparatus by equipment suitable for the protection of modern heavy draught vessels. It also includes the purchase of the plant necessary for the carrying on of the works as well as the purchase of lands, wharves, etc., the erection of such supplementary works as may be required, the chartering of any boats that may be found temporarily necessary to properly carry out these works, the regulation of traffic in the Detroit river and such other places as may be found necessary, and the administration and operation of the light-house depot at Prescott.

Mr. DUFF: Last year I called the attention of the then minister of Marine and Fisheries to the necessity of an aid to navigation off the Newfoundland coast. It was well known to this committee, of

[Mr. Lapointe.]

course, that Canada provides for the upkeep of certain lighthouses on the Newfoundland coast; and last year I asked that a powerful gas buoy or light ship be placed between Cape Pine and Cape Race. In this district, St. Mary's Bay, which is known as the graveyard of the Newfoundland coast, a great many steamers and sailing vessels belonging to Canadian ship owners, owing to the very strong current which runs along the south shore of Newfoundland are carried into this area and in the dead of night, or during heavy fogs, are cast ashore and wrecked with the loss not only of the ship but in a great many cases many valuable lives. That being the case it seems to me this is a very important matter and the Marine Department, in my opinion, should take steps to place there at a distance of about four or five miles off the land an aid to navigation in the shape of a gas buoy or light ship whereby vessels before they are drawn into the current will be able to hear the bell or the "drone," as it is sometimes called, before they get too close to the rocks. I repeat that this is a very important matter. Not only freighting vessels but fishing vessels pass up and down that coast, and from the conversations which I have had with the captains and crews of these ships—both steamers and sailing vessels—it is felt that the Canadian government would be doing the right thing by investigating this matter and placing some aid to navigation in this locality.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Do you want an answer?

Mr. DUFF: No.

Mr. MACLEAN (P. E. I.): I desire to bring a matter to the attention of the minister, although it is not so important as the question brought up by my hon. friend to my right (Mr. Duff). Down in our province we have a great deal of off-shore fishing, and in two or three sections we have been asking that a small range light, as an aid to navigation, be furnished, to guide the fishermen coming in after night and to find the channel. Last year the matter was brought to the attention of the department and nothing was done. This year I have been endeavouring to persuade the hon. minister to give some attention to this small work. While it is not very important for our large seagoing ships, we have our humble fishermen who go to sea to earn their living, and why should we not give these men some as-