

Mr. BRODEUR. I am informed the 'Algoma' was employed only in the following spring, not in the fall when the three tugs were employed and the Reid vessel was employed.

Mr. BENNETT. How many days was the Reid vessel employed? Twelve days?

Mr. BRODEUR. I do not know exactly how long she was there.

Mr. BENNETT. Do any of the officers?

Mr. BRODEUR. The officer informs me he cannot give exactly the time the vessel was employed; however, we can get the information and supply it later.

Mr. BENNETT. We will be here all summer, we have adjourned this estimate three or four times now to get this information.

Mr. BRODEUR. I am very sorry to have to tell the hon. member that the correspondence he has in his hands will show him that. I have not the correspondence here, I gave it to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. BENNETT. You gave me copies, not originals.

Mr. BRODEUR. No, I think the original is before the Public Accounts Committee. As a matter of fact for some time we have been handicapped in the department because most of the documents are before the Public Accounts Committee or have been produced here.

Mr. BENNETT. I do not think these papers have. Since the minister does not know anything about it and the officials know less—

Mr. BRODEUR. My hon. friend will find the information in the documents he has before him.

Mr. BENNETT. The minister does not know and none of his officials seem to know. These tugs of the Great Lakes Dredging Company were employed there twelve days and it is fair to infer that the 'Reid' tug was employed twelve days and must have been paid \$400 per day.

Mr. BRODEUR. I do not know exactly how long she was employed. Unfortunately I have not got the papers before me. My hon. friend has them. Perhaps he will look into them and see how it stands.

Mr. BENNETT. It is a wonderful state of affairs. With the officers of the department sitting alongside the hon. gentleman, he cannot tell what was done with the \$5,000. Well, I shall have to give the hon. gentleman some information. The amount of course is only \$5,000, and in a department like the Department of Marine and Fisheries, that is a mere bagatelle. How many days the tug was employed there I know not because the correspondence does not

Mr. BENNETT.

show. Then she was taken down to Port Arthur and there joined that remarkable naval expedition fitted out by the department, one wing of the fleet being under Captain Sullivan and the other under Captain Reid. These two boats were employed running along the bay from Fort William, looking after lighthouse keepers, and each one was blaming the other. There was no confidence between them. Will the hon. minister, since I have given him a pointer about his department, let us know how long Captain Sullivan was employed on his vessel chasing around?

Mr. BRODEUR. As I have already explained several times, we did not engage the boats ourselves but simply made an agreement by which those people were to keep the channel free of ice and open. It was none of our business how they were to do that.

Mr. BENNETT. The correspondence shows that Mr. Fraser made this bargain with Mr. Whelan, the son-in-law of the hon. member for Rainy River (Mr. Comtee). The understanding was that Murphy & Whelan would be responsible for keeping the ice out of the harbours of Fort William and Port Arthur respectively for the sum of \$100 a day each. No blame can be attached to Mr. Fraser except for not having known with whom he was dealing. He should have insisted on a bargain being made in black and white. But instead he dealt with these men as if they were ordinary, straightforward business men. The result was this. This boat which was hired by this Great Lakes Dredging Company, this one with the nominal six horse-power was utterly ineffective to break thick ice. You paid \$600 for this ice breaker and then had to send to Sarnia for another vessel, and your officers cannot say how many days she worked and what work she did. But the minister knows that \$5,000 was paid on account. How much more is he going to pay these Reid people?

Mr. BRODEUR. I gave that information the other day to the hon. gentleman. I think about \$2,000 or \$3,000.

Mr. BENNETT. No doubt, if they have that much more to be paid, these people have had a good time. We will leave the Reid people at Port Arthur because we cannot get any information from the department concerning them. Let us take the item of the Sault Ste. Marie Tug Company, trip for light-house keepers and so on, from 18th to 25th of December, at \$125 per day. Is that the tug which Captain Sullivan was in charge of?

Mr. BRODEUR. I do not know whether he was or not.

Mr. BENNETT. Who were the owners and who was in charge?