

Salaries and allowances to lightkeepers, \$650,000.

Mr. TOLMIE: There is a lighthouse at the entrance to Victoria harbour, and another at the entrance to Esquimalt harbour. What are the salaries of these lighthouse keepers?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I will look that up.

Mr. JELLIFF: The lighthouses and lighthouse keepers is something I have always been interested in ever since I was a boy and learned to sing that old song, "Let the lower lights be burning, send a gleam across the waves." I have often thought of those poor lighthouse keepers away out on some lonely rock or point at the edge of the ocean, and of their isolated, almost heartbreaking existence. Could the minister tell us how many lighthouses we have in Canada, how many lighthouse keepers, and what amount they are paid yearly for the splendid service they are rendering in guiding vessels to safety from the perils and storms of the ocean?

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend will understand it is rather difficult for me to give all the details to-night, because there are 3,000 lightkeepers in Canada. Their salaries vary from \$50 to \$1,500 a year. Some of them are granted allowances apart from their salary.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Last Mountain): Is there any provision made for superannuation in old age?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Last Mountain): Under what act?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Under the Calder Act.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Last Mountain): May I ask the minister whence the title came, "the Calder Act"?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I think it is the name of a distinguished gentleman who was a member of a former administration in this country.

Mr. STEVENS: What was spent under this item last year? While on my feet I would like to make this observation in connection with the light service: Speaking from a considerable knowledge of the Pacific coast—I do not know so much of the Atlantic coast—the light service is of a very high order. It has been maintained at a high standard of efficiency, and I think compares very favourably with a similar service by any other nation in the world. I am not at all inclined to criticize just-

fiable expenditure for this purpose. Will the minister give us the amount expended last year?

Mr. LAPOINTE: The amount expended last year was \$649,296.12. That is a few hundred dollars less than the amount voted.

Mr. STEVENS: That was a pretty clever and capable estimate on the part of the previous government was it not?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I must admit it, due to the good officers of the department.

Mr. SIMPSON: May I ask if the minister has received a report as yet from the district superintendent of my county—Algonoma—with reference to the recent lamentable accident on lake Superior, when the government lighthouse boat Lambton is reported to have been lost with all on board, including some lighthouse keepers who were being taken up to their stations for the season's operations?

Mr. LAPOINTE: All the facts are being published in the press. We have no report except the one that came to the department that there is no trace of the vessel. It certainly is a case of complete loss of life and of property.

Mr. SIMPSON: Is it the intention of the department to have an investigation made?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I was asking that question in the department but there does not appear to be much to investigate.

Mr. SIMPSON: May I ask whether it is correct that this vessel left the dock at which she was moored much earlier than customary; also whether it would not have been more prudent for such a small vessel to turn back and take shelter in port when much larger vessels were doing that?

Mr. LAPOINTE: The instructions to the commanding officer of the ship were to leave as soon as the conditions of navigation would permit him to do so. Great latitude is left to the captains of these vessels. It is necessary, of course, that the lighthouses shall be operated as early as possible in the season, but the date of the departure of these vessels is left altogether to the discretion of their commanding officers.

Mr. TOLMIE: Has my hon. friend any information yet in regard to the salaries of the lighthouse keepers?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Not yet, but many persons are working at the task of getting that information for my hon. friend.

Item agreed to.