

SUPPLY—MARINE AND FISHERIES—ICE-BREAKER, &c.—*Con.*

*Daniel, John W.* (St. John city)—4954.

How many submarine signals have been placed, and where, and what has been the cost? If these are to be really beneficial to the mercantile marine, the ordinary merchant steamers must also be equipped—4954. Are any of these submarine signal stations in the St. Lawrence?—4956. Has the minister received any petition for the placing of the fog station at Cape Spencer, where there is already a light?—4957. Has the government to pay a royalty to the inventor on all the steamers that carry this receiving apparatus; and do the masters of these steamers report in favour of the system?—4962.

*Fielding, Hon. W. S.* (Minister of Finance)—4920.

I shall be pleased to look any error up and give a satisfactory explanation—4920. My hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) ought not to use a word so offensive as 'rake-off' in connection with the name of the firm of McAvity; it is one of the oldest and most honourable firms in the maritime provinces—4927.

*Foster, Hon. Geo. E.* (North Toronto)—4919.

The minister's first excuse for this purchase of potatoes was that they were bought in the winter time and prices were high; memorandum shows nearly all potatoes were bought in summer; the member for Brockville (Mr. Derbyshire) declares that \$1 a bushel in the spring of the year is reasonable, but potatoes were not bought in the spring of the year—4919. The minister's statement that only a small quantity of cement was used at Garnet Rock is no defence—4924. The minister (Mr. Brodeur) knows that the McAvity firm in St. John act as agents for the sale of cement, that the orders are given to them without competition, and that upon every barrel they sell they have a large percentage of profit—4925. According to Auditor General's Report, on page W—16, Star cement for the Trent canal was charged at \$2.08 per barrel—4930. The McAvity had a rake-off, and it was the minister who gave it to them—4935. Were tenders called for item on page P—98: N. Willard, Prescott, \$9,663 for supplies?—9438. The law calls for the purchase of supplies by tender as well as works—4939. These supplies are delivered now as they are required and they could be delivered on the contract as they are required—4940. When the minister's officers want any of these supplies, blow forges or anything else that they use in their work and that Mr. Willard has, they know exactly the price, it having been arranged by contract, at which they could be got—4941. Would like to have details of services for which Frank Creelman was paid \$1,200 'as consulting engineer in connection with the improvement of the gas lighting system.' Who made the report on which the changes in the system were made, and has it been printed—4951. What is the cost of the receiving apparatus?—4957. Why was there

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such a great desire to buy this apparatus from Merwin before there was any chance of installing them?—4958. How much did it cost to equip Chedabucto station?—4959. What is this extinguisher, where is it used, upon whose report were they bought, and where are they now?—4960. Were accounts made with Matheson & Co., Ltd., New Glasgow; T. L. Willson, Ottawa, and N. Dofour, at pages P—100, 101, 102, in Auditor General's Report, made by contract or tender?—4961. Was not the cause of the explosion the charging beyond what the buoys were certified to carry?—4964. Has minister ever undertaken to find out what the real cost of manufacturing carbide is?—4965.

*Ganong, G. W.* (Charlotte)—4923.

Does the minister say that in every instance when large quantities of cement are required, tenders are asked for? What cement does the department consider the best?—4923. Were all the cement contracts in the maritime provinces given by tender? 1,400 barrels at \$2.75 a barrel meant \$700 rake-off—4924. \$2.25 is a good price for cement—4925. Did minister (Mr. Brodeur) specify the class of cement to be used on Garnet Rock, Lepreaux and Partridge Island? The McAvity were the agents of the Rathbun Cement Company and they were paid \$2.75 per barrel when the White English cement could have been bought at \$2.25 per barrel—4929. Who said anything against the McAvity firm which is one of the most enterprising firms in Canada?—4935. Will minister please explain item at page P—101 of the Auditor General's Report; quotes item—4955. Quotes article from Boston paper regarding submarine signals—4956. Quotes further extracts from American papers; success has attended the fitting of this apparatus on some American steamers—4957. Is item of \$68,540 on P—101 supposed to be the whole equipment for these five stations?—4962. Is it not a fact that the first correspondence was direct with the Boston corporation, and that Mr. Merwin came in later on? What have been found to be the greatest weaknesses with acetylene lighting?—4964.

*Gervais, H.* (St. Mary's, Montreal)—4937.

How could there be a rake-off when the articles are purchased at current prices? What is a 'rake-off'?—4937.

*Haggart, Hon. J. G.* (South Lanark)—4931.

When I was at the head of the department the practice was not even to buy a paint brush for the Intercolonial without tender. Does the minister (Mr. Brodeur) not know that the imperial government do not buy a pound of nails without tender?—4931. Under the imperial government no persons but those who are selected by the imperial authorities has the right to tender—4932. Under the old régime when cement and other articles of supply were required in the department a list was made out of the probable