

Q. That is really the only difference?—A. If that be an advantage it has that. But it has another disadvantage that as the system has become known we find it extremely difficult when a vacancy occurs now to get anybody who will come along to fill the position temporarily unless we pay him from the outset until such time as we are in position to make his position permanent a very much larger wage than we would pay him if we were in position to proceed immediately and make the position permanent.

*By Mr. Charters:*

Q. Do you state the salary in the advertisement you publish?—A. Yes, we do, and the salary is very small and the result now is that we have difficulty, as I said, in getting anybody to take the temporary appointment unless we pay him whatever he may regard as the prevailing rate of wages in the particular district in which he resides and sometimes more. Now that is the position with respect to light keepers. Now, I will give you an instance: We required on Sable Island—if you want an isolated place that enjoys the distinction of being very isolated. We wanted a light keeper there. It was very difficult to get people to go to live on Sable Island and I always wonder how it is we get anybody to go and live there. Well, we approached the Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission said: "What you ought to call these people are boatmen." We run Sable Island under the name of a humane establishment. We keep a crew on Sable Island in addition to attending to the lights; we keep a crew to extend aid to any shipwreck that may happen to take place.

*By Mr. Currie:*

Q. The Sable Island you refer to is Sable Island off Halifax harbour, away out on the ocean?—A. Yes. It is commonly known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic.

*By Mr. Griesbach:*

Q. How long is it?—A. It is a sand bar about 10 or 12 miles long.

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. Nobody living there?—A. Except the people we keep there.

*By Mr. Currie:*

Q. You keep a lifeboat crew and a life crew?—A. Yes. Well, the Civil Service Commission got the idea they ought to call these men boatmen. I never attach much importance to what people who are doing work are called; so long as they do the work I don't care what they are called. I don't attach any great importance to titles. I said: "All right, I don't care what you call them, so long as we get them," and we finally told the Civil Service Commission that the agent at Halifax had secured a good man who was prepared to go to Sable Island because he had relatives on the island, and he was a good man. But they said, "You will have to advertise." Well, we advertised and we got no applicants.

*By Mr. Griesbach:*

Got what?—A. Got no applicants, because nobody were tumbling over themselves to get a position down on Sable Island, and finding that the service had to be maintained and the light kept going we sent this man to Sable Island and for upwards of a year we were endeavouring to get his appointment made permanent, but we never succeeded in getting the appointment made permanent, and finally after the expiration of more than a year somebody in the Civil Service Commission who did not understand the situation—and I want to make this very clear; I am satisfied that if it were possible for these matters to come under the observation of the Commissioners

[Mr. Alexander Johnston.]