

better employed than in providing properly equipped life-saving stations of the most improved character.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON—I have no desire to prolong this discussion, important though it is, but I watched the newspapers very closely at the time of these occurrences. They were very indignant at the conduct of the government officials, and I never saw any mention of the agent of the Marine Department having wired to Ottawa for instructions. If he did eventually do so, it must have been at a very late date after the public had become indignant at his conduct. I am doubtful if he did so at all. He allowed these men to be lost while he dallied away the time, and did nothing.

Hon. Mr. POWER—There is just one point which is suggested by this discussion, which is that it now becomes the duty of the government to make some inquiry into the conduct of their officers in Prince Edward Island. If it is a fact that the superintendent of the island railway refused to allow an engine to go to Souris, and if the agent of the Marine and Fisheries Department neglected his duty, then the conduct of these gentlemen should be investigated, and should it be found that they have not done their duty, they should be got rid of and others appointed who will act differently.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—This is unquestionably an exceedingly important matter, and I entirely concur in the remarks that have dropped from the hon. senators from Halifax. If the individual in charge of the Prince Edward Island Railway positively refused in such an emergency to allow the use of an engine and car to take a life-boat for the purpose of saving life, he is not fit to fill a public position, and the government should remove him. A man possessed of so little human feeling as to refuse to let a life-boat be taken to the scene of a wreck until a deposit of \$60 was made, should not hold a public office. I hope the government will hold an investigation, and if that man has been guilty of any such conduct he should not be continued where he is. I admit the force of the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce that we have a very extended coast line. Canada has been endeavouring to

provide protection for her marine business by the erection of lighthouses, and they have been constructed as rapidly, I presume, as the resources at the command of the government would permit. There are two or three places where special effort should be put forth. We all regret very seriously the unfortunate disasters that have taken place on the St. Lawrence, and think that the government should spare no money that may be necessary to equip the whole of that important water-course with lighthouses, and provide fog horns to such an extent as to render navigation safe. That is a national matter. Every Canadian has an interest in the great St. Lawrence waterway, and its navigation should be made as safe as human ingenuity can make it. Another exceedingly important water route is that from Owen Sound and the eastern coast of Georgian bay to the head of Lake Superior. That should be protected by lighthouses and fog horns to render it as safe as it can possibly be made. An unfortunate disaster took place recently on the west coast of Georgian bay. A steamer, possibly a local steamer, and not very seaworthy, left Owen Sound with twenty-six people on board altogether, every one of whom was lost. It has not been ascertained yet whether that disaster was due to want of lighthouses and fog horns.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The vessel went down in seventy feet of water.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—That is a very important stretch of navigable water. The accumulation of freight in the western provinces is likely to become larger, and the traffic carried by that route is likely to increase steadily, and every kind of protective apparatus should be provided to save human life when disasters occur. With regard to the Prince Edward Island matter, I quite agree that some efforts should be made to protect those who are exposed to the dangers of the sea on that coast. No doubt the Minister of Marine and Fisheries feels he has a very serious burden on his shoulders, and is doing all he can to protect life and save property. We have had a statement from the hon. Secretary of State with regard to the unfortunate wreck at Vancouver, and it is quite clear that active measures have been taken to prevent the recurrence of