

because the Deputy Minister of Marine was present, and more definite information could have been given than I am able to give at this time. I understand that an arrangement was made by which Mr. McWilliams, telegraph operator, is paid \$400 a year for supplying certain information of value to the signal service and for information of the boats going up and down the river of value to the agents of those boats. I understand the hon. gentleman to complain, that the amount paid to Mr. McWilliams is in excess of the amount paid to an officer elsewhere. I will look into the matter to see if there is any discrepancy and whether the allowance made to the operator at the other point should be brought up to that paid to Mr. McWilliams. The hon. gentleman also referred to the allowance made for board of the pilots. My attention was called to this matter for the first time few days ago. It was represented to me that years ago an agreement was made that the pilots that go to Father Point, and wait there to take vessels up the St. Lawrence from the sea, were allowed 25 cents a meal. It was represented that, in view of the high cost of living, this rate was not sufficient, and that it ought to be increased to 40 cents a meal. I instructed the officials to look up the file and get the facts, so that I could look into the matter and see just what the liability of Parliament was. As soon as I get the facts I shall be prepared to deal with the case.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I have listened to the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Boulay) with some regret. I thought he had forgotten his recent quarrels with Mr. McWilliams. I regret that Mr. McWilliams was dismissed as lighthouse keeper some years ago, but, of course, the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen) had to yield to the pressure which was put upon him. I do not know whether it may have been Mr. McWilliams' sins of omission or commission, but let it be said that the Shipping Federation has stood by Mr. McWilliams from the very beginning. He is a man of great ability and one who thoroughly knows his business. He has fortunately been kept as the telegraph operator. It is admitted amongst those who know him in the province, and particularly amongst the business men, that he is one of the ablest operators in Canada. It is really a pity that Mr. McWilliams was dismissed and that he lost such a good income as the one he had when he was lighthouse keeper. He is highly respected by

the business community. He was one of the few English-speaking employees of the Government in the whole district of Quebec. I repeat that it is a pity

9 p.m. that such a man was dismissed from office but fortunately the minister did not yield to the pressure put upon him to dismiss him as telegraph operator. If my hon. friend from Rimouski will accept the opinion of such men as Lord Shaughnessy, or the president of the Shipping Federation in Montreal, he will know that Mr. McWilliams is one of the safest, one of the ablest, men they had in the service. I think my hon. friend ought now to insist that Mr. McWilliams be restored to his former position. I know that he had some petty quarrels with him but after all a man is a man and in times like the present we ought to forget these old feuds. I regret exceedingly that Mr. McWilliams' salary has been curtailed to the extent that it has and my hon. friend should do an act of justice, be a man, and have him restored to his former position.

Mr. BOULAY (Translation): I am rather surprised that the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) should attempt to vindicate the worst case of political partisanship extant in the county of Rimouski and Matane. If ever public officer was rightfully dismissed, Mr. McWilliams is the man. He was for a period of thirty-six years in the service of the Government and he acknowledged to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that he had been an active political worker against the Conservative party during that period. I believe the Liberal party would not have been slow in dismissing him had he worked against them.

Hon. Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure) (Translation): A fault confessed is half pardoned.

Mr. BOULAY (Translation): The Liberal party has never been very much in the habit of pardoning, and I do not think he would have been pardoned under such conditions.

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX (Translation): It is never too late to reform.

Mr. BOULAY (Translation): I may say to the hon. member for Rouville that should he wish to vindicate political partisanship, he might surely select a better case; Mr. McWilliams' case is the worst to be found not only in the county of Rimouski, but throughout the province of Quebec.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Will the hon. gentleman allow me a question?