

we have had two, the 'Lady Laurier' and the 'Aberdeen.' Last fall, however, the 'Aberdeen' had to undergo some repairs to her boilers, and a new boat, the 'Montmagny,' was brought down from Quebec to replace her during the winter. This is a very strong and well equipped boat, and I think it must be giving satisfaction. These boats look after the lighthouse and buoy service primarily; but they have general instructions also to render assistance to the fishermen in case of dangerous storms. Besides, we have a small boat known as 'The 33' which was at Canso. A very serious storm prevailed there for some days, and it was feared that some of the fishermen who had left for the Banks might be overtaken. No loss of life occurred, but it was thought well that we should provide for a similar case, and so we kept 'The 33' in commission.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I desire, on behalf of my constituents, to thank the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for the prompt way in which he responded to the call made by myself last fall that 'The 33' should be put on the service at Canso. The winter fishing has not been very extensively carried on in Nova Scotia, but it has been carried on to some extent for some years past. It is one of the most profitable branches of our fishery, for prices are good at that season and the haddock are on the coast. It was dangerous, however, because of the sudden squalls and snowstorms that arise in November and December, and even later. On the 6th of January last year, a serious situation was found to have arisen as a result of which a few of the fishermen lost their lives off Canso and Whitehead in one of these sudden squalls. A number of the boats were driven out to sea. But the marine department fitted out their boats at Halifax, and these scoured the water for two or three days and picked up most of the boats. These were in a sinking condition with ice and helpless. But, by the prompt services afforded by the department from Halifax, the lives of most of the men were saved. At the commencement of this season, the request was made of the department to provide protection by keeping a boat under steam and ready in case of sudden storm to go to the fishing grounds and help the fleet there. 'The 33' did that work during the past year and did it well, on two or three occasions, I am glad to say, rendering good assistance. The vessels engaged in the fishery protection service might very well be employed in this way during winter where winter fishing is carried on. It would give the men a great deal more confidence to go out into these dangerous waters so that they would go out on many days when they would not go without this protection. Most of these vessels are partly idle, and some of them entirely out of commission during the winter; but I believe

that some of the officers are under pay, and so it would not cost a great deal of money to keep them in commission at certain ports on the coast where winter fishing is carried on. I hope the winter fishing will increase, and that it will be established at various places on the coast. In that case, this protection would be very important. I understand that similar service has been afforded in the United States during the past two or three years with good results in rescuing vessels in distress on the stormy coast of the New England States. This work could be done on the coast of Canada, especially the Atlantic coast, not only for the benefit of the fishermen, but for the coasters. I only rose mainly to thank the minister for the prompt way in which the department responded to the request of the fishermen of Canso last year, and I trust that the policy of the department will be to continue this work.

Mr. CROSBY. There is no doubt that whenever an application is made to the department, they have been very prompt in sending assistance to fishermen. I have not a word of complaint to utter on that point. On the western part of the coast of Nova Scotia, that is, Halifax and west of Halifax, the craft that go fishing are better equipped, more of the schooner rig, better prepared to take care of themselves, than the vessels that fish from points east of Halifax, particularly from my hon. friend's (Mr. Sinclair's) riding. I have not a word to say with regard to the promptness of the Marine and Fisheries boats in getting out, they are always ready and anxious to be of help, but I believe the time has come in the interest of the fishing industry, which is increasing rapidly and becoming very profitable, that such a patrol as has been suggested should be maintained. The boats employed in the industry are not of a class to withstand a heavy sea or to remain long in the open. The establishment of a patrol system would not cost a great deal, and as the member for Guysborough (Mr. Sinclair) stated, the additional cost would be slight compared with the encouragement to the fishermen. As the coast is a dangerous one, good comfortable boats should be employed for patrol purposes, and I urge on the minister to try and establish such a system during the next season.

Mr. BRODEUR. Some time ago we were informed that some fishing vessels had been caught in the ice in Lunenburg harbour. We immediately despatched the 'Stanley' to break the ice to release them in order that they might carry on their work. They were released, but it cost the government something as the 'Stanley' met with an accident. I thank my hon. friend for his expressions with regard to the wish of the department to do all in their power