

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri) (Translation): Since the construction of the island of Orleans' bridge, has there not also been a question of the Quebec province providing a semaphore to enlighten and satisfy the member for Quebec-Montmorency?

Mr. DORION (Translation): It is evident that my hon. friend is ignorant of where the bridge of the island of Orleans is located. This bridge is located between the north shore and the island. The distance between these two localities is about 15 miles and navigation follows the south shore and not the north shore.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): In this case, I would suggest to the hon. Minister of Marine to first grant the request which my colleague, the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency, has just made, to erect a semaphore at St-Jean, island of Orleans, then, since the hon. member took such an interest in the building of the island of Orleans bridge, another semaphore should be erected on the bridge.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Since we are discussing this subject, may I inquire whether, the alignment lights for the service of signals which exists at Betchouan, below Havre St. Pierre, will be again maintained this year? I was informed by letter that the department intended to discontinue the maintenance of these signal-lights, and navigators around these parts inform me that it is most important for those who navigate in these waters to have lights to guide them.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): I cannot at present give a definite answer to my hon. friend. This question is under the supervision of the committee on lights of the Department of Marine. I shall make the necessary inquiries and inform the hon. member.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): I think it is petty thrift to economize a few hundred dollars and imperil the lives of fishermen and navigators of that locality. Although we must practice thrift, I think it would be money well invested if the Department of Marine maintained these signal-lights.

Mr. BOUCHARD (Translation): It is a burning question!

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): The Department of Marine has no intention of placing the life of fishermen or navigators in jeopardy by removing the signal-lights where they are absolutely required. I have full confidence in the committee on lights, however,

if it is necessary to look into the matter, I shall do so personally.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): What are the duties of this committee on lights and who are the members of this committee?

Mr. BOUCHARD (Translation): There must also be dark spots.

Mr. DORION (Translation): Fortunately you are not included otherwise it would be total darkness.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): The committee is composed of the heads of the various branches of the Marine department, including a representative of the Shipping Federation. The members of this committee hold meetings now and then and make recommendations after visiting the various localities to study the requirements of navigation.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Does this committee meet yearly? Has it meetings on fixed dates or do they meet when they please.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): The committee does not hold regular meetings. When a sufficient number of requests have been addressed to the department, the committee meets, holds an inquiry and reports.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Can the minister inform the house as to the last date this committee met?

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): According to my information, the last meeting took place in December.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Will a meeting be held in the near future when he can submit such requests as I have just mentioned.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): If there are important requests, as those mentioned by the hon. member, the committee will certainly meet before this spring.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Before the spring? I suppose you cannot give the approximate date?

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): No, we shall fix a date when we have before us all requests relating to next year's navigation.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Is the Deputy Minister of Marine included in this committee?

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): The assistant deputy minister is.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): The assistant?