

SUPPLY—MARINE AND FISHERIES—MAIN-
TENANCE AND REPAIRS—*Con.*

Brodeur, Hon. L. P. (Minister of Marine and Fisheries)—*Con.*

boat to make experiments with?—4767. The boat now under construction in England will be devoted especially to the sweeping of the channel below Quebec—4770. Charges against Captain Pratt are of a very serious character, and there will be a thorough investigation—4784. Quotes report of the nautical expert of the department. Government is willing to give Prince Edward Island all the accommodation that is possible—4785. The expenditure on 'Aberdeen' cost in 1896, \$23,000, and cost last year \$61,187.67; the present 'Druid' is not the one which was in existence in 1896; the expenditure on the 'Lansdowne' in 1896 was \$26,546.94, and last year \$52,109.82—4786. The 546.94, and last year \$52,109.82—4786 The 'Quadra' cost \$29,000 in 1896, and \$64,000 last year. The hydrographic survey in 1896 cost \$15,000, and last year \$34,000. We had no ice-breakers at all in 1896; many works have been undertaken which were not undertaken in 1896—4787-8.

Chisholm, W. (Antigonish, N.S.)—4776.

Prince Edward Island is entitled to a good and efficient steam service at all seasons of the year, and she has not been receiving it; the present government, as well as previous governments, have been attempting to meet the requirements of the case as well as possible. The hon. member for Prince (Mr. Lefurgey) has a greater desire to criticise the government and to make political capital than to find a solution of the difficulties that stand in the way of winter communication—4776. The 'Montcalm' is the most powerful ice-breaker we have in Canada, and people of the island should be satisfied when government send the best boat that Canada can give at the present time for that service. The terms of union provided for 'continuous efficient steam service for the conveyance of mails and passengers, to be established and maintained between the island and the mainland'—4777. Pictou harbour is not and cannot be made a good harbour for a large steamer in the winter season; the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Brodeur) should ascertain for himself whether or not this route between Cape George and Georgetown or Souris is feasible—4778. Last winter was not one when a test could be made, because there was open water the whole winter—4779.

Daniel, J. W. (St. John city)—4783.

Quotes telegram in the Montreal 'Star'; Captain Pratt has reputation of being a good officer and an honest man in the city of St. John. Was the charge a recent one or an old one?—4784.

Hughes, J. J. (King's, P.E.I.)—4773.

The government are making all reasonable efforts to give the people of Prince Edward Island that communication to which they are entitled and which they were promised at confederation, but which was

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not given for many years after—4773. While the 'Montcalm' and the other strong steamer will be on the Georgetown-Pictou route next winter, if possible, one of the other steamers should be operated so as to find out whether another harbour on the Nova Scotia side, having deeper water than Pictou harbour can be found; Pictou harbour is the real difficulty—4774. I believe the tunnel will be the final result, and I trust it will be so—4775. Quotes 'Hansard'; the Marine and Fisheries agent at Charlottetown has never allowed his political feelings to interfere in any way, shape or manner with his official duties—4776.

Lefurgey, A. A. (Prince, P.E.I.)—4767.

The 'Montcalm' was built to experiment with in the River St. Lawrence; when we met last year the understanding was that we were to have a new boat for the Prince Edward Island route—4767. There is something contradictory in Mr. Duguid's verbal report and his written report; quotes resolution of the maritime board of trade held at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia on August 16th, 1905—4768-9. Why did government not recognize conditions a year ago, put the 'Montcalm' on the Prince Edward Island service and put one of the other boats on the St. Lawrence service, and in the meantime dredge Pictou harbour and build the boat of 5,500 horse-power recommended by Mr. Duguid?—4769. Is the new boat to be used simply by the crew or is she supposed to carry passengers on the St. Lawrence? Reads accommodation provided for in the design—4770-1. The government are perfectly willing to lavish public money on a boat which is not needed for this service while afraid of expending a few thousands on a crying need in Prince Edward Island—4771. There is only \$15,000 or \$20,000 between the estimate for the maintenance of the service without the tunnel and the maintenance of a service with the tunnel; the government up to date has shown no desire to endeavour to solve the situation with regard to communication with the island—4772. Did Minister (Mr. Brodeur) recommend the Department of Public Works to take up the matter of dredging?—4785. What action have the government taken in regard to the survey, estimates and information that they promised last year would be gathered in regard to the construction of the tunnel?—4786.

Macdonald, E. M. (Pictou, N.S.)—4780.

A reasonable and satisfactory service was afforded the people of Prince Edward Island last winter, for the steamer went to and fro between the mainland and the island every day—4780. This blocking of communication has to be put up with at times by people on the mainland as well as by people on the island; the difficulty in running a large ice-breaker is the insufficient depth of water on the harbour bar at Pictou—4781. Until railway communication is provided, the minister