

SUPPLY—MARINE AND FISHERIES—ICE-BREAKER, &c.—*Con.*

*Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—Con.*

is not on this side of the House—4919. Has the minister any idea as to the value of the 'Maud' or the 'Oscar'?—4921. The firm of McAvity would take as good a price as this government would be foolish enough to give them—4927. Was the whole quantity of 1,407 barrels bought for delivery at once?—4928.

*Broder, A. (Dundas)—4964.*

Has the minister not had explosions since orders were given to reduce the pressure?—4964.

*Brodeur, Hon. L. P. (Minister of Marine and Fisheries)—4912.*

Quotes report of Jas. Gaudin on lightship at Sandheads, Fraser River, B. C.—4912-3-4. All reports will be brought down next week; quotes letter from Auditor General concerning purchase of potatoes for the 'Minto'—4915. Hon. member for Middlesex (Mr. Elson) should have asked for information in regard to item; quotes report of accountant of the department—4917-18. Gives expenditure respecting cost of repairs to Sandhead's lightship; quotes amount of supplies supplied by 'Maude' to lighthouses under construction—4920. the 'Quadra' was placed on the dock on January 7, at Esquimalt, as the Bullen's had modern pneumatic appliances to expedite the work and the repairs could be done at a less cost than at the government dock where repairs would have to be carried on by hand. The 'Oscar' registered tonnage 95 tons, registered owner Mrs. Elizabeth A. Fell, Victoria; was hired from August 25 to October 3, 1904, 40 days at \$65 per day for coaling the different fog alarm stations—4921. Mr. Strubbe happened to be the lowest tenderer, and the department gave him the contract—4923. The cement, which is used on the works of the department, are tested at the government laboratory, and if they are found satisfactory they are endorsed—4924. It would be contrary to the interests of the department to purchase a large quantity of cement because we have not always the necessary quarters in which to store the cement necessary for immediate delivery, and there was no necessity for storage—4928. The law provides that the government may purchase for a sum under \$5,000 without calling for tenders; did my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) when he was minister, always call for tenders?—4931. Does hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) speak of public tenders advertised in the newspapers or simply of asking some friends to tender? According to the Canadian law, when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) was purchasing more than \$5,000 worth of supplies, he was obliged to call for public tenders—4932. The hon. ex-Minister of Railways and Canals asked prices from persons who were agreeable to him; we are calling for public tenders—4934. Did hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) not use the term 'rake-off'?—4935. When the tenders are opened two

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

persons, Mr. Stumbles and Mr. Skelly, are present and sign them—4938. We have a shop at Prescott, and in that shop small quantities of these different articles are required at different times, and they are bought as they are required from dealers, on requisition. The law does not require the calling for tenders for supplies; it requires the calling for tenders for work—4939. If my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) compares the Auditor General's Report for this year and for previous years he will find that some of the articles required in one year are not required in another—4940. The system of the imperial authorities has not been adopted in this country because ours is a better system—4941-2. Explains why it was impossible to bring down report—4952. Quotes page 4 of the report of the department in connection with acetylene gas—4953. The department so far, has provided submarine signals for eight places—five lightships, two special submarine bell buoys and one station—4954. The department is not responsible for the word 'established' in the item the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ganong) has read; Chedabucto Head is the only station yet established—4955. There is some difficulty or delay in the American company carrying out the wishes of the federation of shipping interests which would like to have these machines—4956. Negotiations are now under way between the shipping interests and the company in order to adopt a general system of signals—4958. Installation of signals was not done to please any person in particular or to give Mr. Merwin an advantage, but it was done at the request of the shipping interest—4959. Roughly speaking, \$60 a ton is the price for carbide, with freight added, so that the price in each case is f.o.b. at the place delivered—4963. We have not found any specific weakness in acetylene lighting, except in one case with regard to certain buoys that had been too highly charged—4964. This carbide is a patented article and one on which a royalty is paid, so it is difficult to find out what it costs—4969.

*Clare, G. A. (South Waterloo)—4965.*

How many companies have managers who are not financially interested in the business, and does the hon. minister know the parties forming the companies?—4965.

*Cochrane, E. (East Northumberland)—4926.*

Could department not buy a large quantity of cement and have it delivered where and when you (Mr. Brodeur) wanted it?—4926. Hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) said as plainly as the English language could say it that when he was minister he never let a contract that exceeded \$5,000 without putting it up to public tender—4936. The present government has nothing to show for their extravagant expenditure of public moneys; opposition should be laughed at—4937-8.