

we are represented by a Conservative member, there are also public servants who are poorly paid, the more so during the present emergency brought on by the high cost of living. For instance, there is at Matane a lighthouse keeper who only gets \$400 a year. He is not one of my political friend, but I think that in all fairness his salary is not high enough. A salary of \$400 is hardly sufficient to support a family at the present juncture, and that man has to attend to the lighthouse day and night. Beside the salary I have just mentioned he gets \$50 a year as telegraph operator, forming a total amount of \$450. Now, I will point out to the hon minister that there is in the county of Rimouski another man who is not by any means a Government employee, Mr. McWilliams, who gets \$500 either from the Marine Department or the Public Works Department. It is a bonus which has been granted to him by the former Administration. That man is a telegraph operator and reports each vessel the same as the operator at Matane. He gets \$500 from the Government merely for reporting vessels, while the other who attends to the lighthouse day in and day out and who moreover acts as telegraph operator gets only \$450.

It seems to me that this is a case of discrimination and that it would be an act of justice on the part of the Marine Department to adjust the salary of the operator at Matane. I shall go further and ask that the operator at Father Point be dispensed with.

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX (Rouville): Has not Mr. McWilliam been dismissed?

Mr. BOULAY: He has been dismissed as lighthouse keeper.

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX: What was his salary as lighthouse keeper?

Mr. BOULAY: He gets \$1,400 I think. In the course of May last I put the following question on the Order Paper:

Q. Has J. McWilliams, G.N.W. telegraph agent at Father Point, any position in the Government telegraph service? If so, what are his duties?

A. The Government telegraph has no wires on the south shore of the St. Lawrence. The work in connection with the shipping and signal service, which is mainly on that side of the river, is performed on the lines of the G.N.W. Telegraph Company, and the Government, to secure efficient service, makes an allowance towards the maintenance of the Father Point telegraph station, which is the most important one on the river. This allow-

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ance is \$500 a year and has been paid since 1902 to the company's agent, Mr. J. McWilliams.

I am going to continue in English, so that my hon. friend (Mr. Hazen) can understand better. There is another matter about the county of Rimouski to which, while I am on my feet, I desire to call the attention of the minister, and that is the rate allowed for the pay of the board of the pilots. That rate is only twenty-five cents a meal, the same rate that has been allowed for many years past. But for the last two years at any rate, that rate is much too low. The poor hotel-keepers ought not to be called upon to board these men at less than they pay for their provisions, even if they get nothing for their trouble. I think the Government should look into this matter and do justice not only to the public but also to the hotel-keepers.

Mr. CURRIE: Does the Government employ the pilots?

Mr. BOULAY: There is an agreement between the Government and the Pilot Board that the boards of the pilots while at Father Point shall be paid by the Government.

Mr. CURRIE: They draw large sums of money from private corporations do they not? They serve steamer lines and get so much a day, and the Government implement it by a grant of so much for each meal.

Mr. BOULAY: As I understand it, the arrangement was made some years ago between the Government and the Pilot Board. The question of their salaries did not enter into it, but, owing to special circumstances, the Government agreed to allow them 25 cents a meal for their board. With the present prices of food, unless this rate is increased, the situation will be intolerable.

Mr. HAZEN: I understood the hon. member (Mr. Boulay), in the first place, to complain of the salaries paid to guardians on the river at Matane. That is a matter he would have to bring to the attention of the Government of the province of Quebec, because the guardians who protect the river at Matane are appointed by the provincial government and paid by them, or under arrangement with the local government, by the lessees of the river. Regarding the matter at Father Point, to which he refers, this, of course, affects the Marine Department. The Estimates of that department were passed the other evening. I am sorry that the hon. gentleman did not bring this matter forward then,