

Flooding, as all the hon. gentlemen know is produced by ice-dams which form at certain points on the St. Lawrence, the effect of which is to cause the river to overflow its banks. The banks of ice break and are strewn about the shores, carrying away with them houses, barns and cattle, and leaving, after the river has resumed its normal course, numberless germs of disease. The hon. members thus see to what extent public health is imperilled. In order to protect the town of Berthier from the floods, it would be necessary for the Government to build three ice-breakers, at different points, and to raise up that which was built after the flood of 1865, and which now serves no useful purpose. From the opinion of engineers whose advice I asked, I should be led to think it necessary for the Government to take such action as would prevent those dams from forming or would shatter them as soon as formed. I am told that such a precaution would prove efficient and could be resorted to without the Government having to incur any considerable expenditure, or at any rate quite below the damages caused by a single flood. I move for copies of documents, letters and reports of engineers which may have been drawn up under directions given either by the Government of the day or by the late Government, with a view to ascertaining what expenditure need be incurred in order to reach the desired end. I trust that the Government, if they have not yet taken any action in the matter, will take all necessary and efficient means to prevent the recurrence of such damages in the future, and that they will not fail to put in the Supplementary Estimates a sufficient sum to afford adequate protection to that immense tract of country from the disastrous flood whose periodical, and I might say yearly, recurrence results in such losses.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). (Translation.) The Government are well acquainted with all the facts submitted to this House by my hon. friend and are fully alive to their high importance. The Government are not aware whether the late Government concerned themselves with that question. No preliminary work, so far as I know, was made with a view to ascertaining what would be the best method of protecting in the future those localities from such ravages. Should there be found in the records of the department any reports or documents such as mentioned in the motion they will as soon as possible be brought down and laid on the Table of the House. But should there be no such reports on record, that is to say, if the late Government did not take this question into their consideration, the duty will be incumbent upon us immediately to deal with it.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. BEAUSOLEIL.

## LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER AT POINT CLARK.

Mr. SEMPLE (for Mr. Tolmie) moved for :

Return of all complaints made against Mr. Rae, lighthouse keeper at Point Clark, in the county of Bruce, Ontario, and of all correspondence relating to such complaints and of any action of the Government thereon.

Mr. CAMERON. I trust the Government will deal with this matter promptly. I put a question on the Paper some days ago and obtained an answer from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries—by the way I do not see him in his seat—that this man was complained against over and over again. He was complained against on the ground that he allowed the lights to go out; he was complained against on the ground that on more than one occasion during business hours, he was beastly drunk. I do not know the man, I do not know what his politics are; I only know that several of my constituents who live in the neighbourhood of this lighthouse, have complained to me and asked me to bring the matter to the attention of the Government. I submit that if the answer given by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is a correct answer, this man's services ought to be dispensed with promptly, in the public interest, and in the interest of navigation on the upper lakes.

Motion agreed to.

## APPOINTMENTS IN THE SERVICE.

Mr. GIBSON moved for :

Copies of all Orders in Council appointing persons to the several departments of Government service from 1st May, 1896, to 10th July, 1896, giving their names, the nature of their appointments and the salary attached or recommended thereto. Also the names of all persons in the Government service recommended for promotion, the positions held, the salaries paid, the promotion and position recommended, as well as the increased salary and the dates of such recommendations.

He said: Shortly after this Government came into office the Conservative press from one end of the Dominion to the other, took the trouble to count the number of men who were coming down to Ottawa, as they stated, to ask the new Government for positions of place and trust. I think, Sir, that when this order is brought down, it will be clearly shown to the House and to the country how very few appointments were left to be made by the new Government by the greedy Tories who were after the positions, and who came down in hordes, I may say, and applied for positions from the late Government after they had no business to make appointments of that kind. Sir, I am not a lawyer myself, but I may mention that when the papers announced the number of