

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Would the minister be kind enough to give us the main items of this expenditure? There is no need of going into details for every 25 or 10 cents; we wish to have some details as to the large amounts, those above \$10.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): All amounts above \$10 are considered large enough to-day.

Mr. DURANLEAU: Up to the 31st of January, 1933, the sum of \$4,440.19 had been expended.

Mr. SULLIVAN: What is the largest item?

Mr. DURANLEAU: The largest item is \$2,186.40 for travelling expenses, Ottawa and return, re investigation—

Mr. POULIOT: That is Sir Alexander Gibb?

Mr. DURANLEAU: That is for professional services in connection with the investigation regarding the loss of the Bright Fan.

Mr. POULIOT: Was Sir Alexander Gibb, the great expert, paid from that item?

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Are there others as important, but less than \$2,000 and on which we could be furnished with details.

Mr. DURANLEAU: There is a sum of \$951 for professional services in connection with the Halifax harbour inquiry, C. B. Smith, fees and expenses.

Mr. POULIOT: Who is he, a barrister? From where?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Halifax.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Are there other items beside this one?

Hon. Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): I have a whole page.

Item agreed to.

Life-saving service, including rewards for saving life, \$50,000.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Would the minister be kind enough to state what amount of this \$50,000 was awarded for saving life? While the hon. minister is looking up the information, I shall make a suggestion to him and I shall make the same suggestion to all members of the government. . . .

Mr. DURANLEAU: Answering my hon. friend from Temiscouata, I am told that the rewards paid under that item during last year do not amount to more than \$250.

Mr. POULIOT: To how many people were they paid?

[Mr. Duranleau.]

Mr. DURANLEAU: I am told that the largest amount was over \$200 paid to the crew of the Montcalm when they rescued the Reindeer last year.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Does this amount of \$250 include the medals awarded for saving lives?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I am told they did not get medals in the circumstances.

Mr. POWER: How many lives did you save with \$250?

Mr. DURANLEAU: All the lives were saved.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): How many lives were saved, for \$250?

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): I am unable to furnish the house with this information.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): I beg your pardon?

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): I cannot state the number of people who were on the boat.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Mr. Chairman, before making the suggestion mentioned, a moment ago, will the hon. minister allow me to point out that we are examining an item of \$50,000 for saving lives and those who did save lives were awarded but \$250 of said amount. We have no knowledge of the number of lives saved, however, the hon. minister states that the crew of the Montcalm was awarded \$250 for having saved the crew of the Reindeer. I made an inquiry as regards the medals awarded but received no answer. We must bear in mind that a person who, under similar circumstances saves the life of another human being, risks his own. Since this person risks his life, like the soldiers who sacrifice their lives on the battlefields, he is as much deserving as them.

While on this topic, sir, may I point out how ridiculous it seems to have certain decorations distributed here and there, while those who save human lives are awarded but \$250. The vote amounts to \$50,000, yet only \$250 is awarded to those who save human lives, while decorations are scattered profusely among a crowd of nonentities because they happen to have money. To my mind this is absurd. I am glad of this opportunity to state that the only persons entitled to official decorations and medals are those who risk their lives to save that of others, such as soldiers on the battlefields or people who dive into the water to rescue a fellow being or again those who go to the rescue of people