

wishes to capture. It would be better to pay these old men a pension and dispense with their services. I did dismiss two old men from the Montreal force, one being seventy years old and the other nearly seventy.

MR. ANGLIN: The proper mode would be to transfer this whole matter to the Local Governments. I see no reason why the Government of this Dominion should be called upon to meddle with this matter in Montreal or Quebec, while there are no such organisations in other cities of the Dominion, where even a larger amount of shipping arrives.

MR. POPE: This service has been in existence for some years, as this Government found it, and as the preceding Government left it. It is a very important service, and these men have proved themselves very useful. The Government is just as well able to support that service as the Local Governments. Last year the Government thought the expenditure too large, and reduced it by \$2,500. The cost, last year, was \$59,000. We dismissed the agent in Quebec, and after careful consideration decided to diminish the force there from forty-four to thirty men. At one time the main object of the Quebec force was to prevent crimping, but very little of that is done at the present time, as but few ships are now being built there. I was of opinion that the number should be increased and the pay reduced. The proposition this year is to give them \$1 a day, and provided they conduct themselves satisfactorily, a further sum of 25c. a day at the close of the season.

MR. CARON: I think the present is not a good time to reduce the Police Force in Quebec. We expect a larger fleet this year than we have had for four or five years. It has been mainly through the services of this force that crimping has been almost completely suppressed. The universal opinion of the shipping trade of Quebec is opposed to any reduction of the force at the present time. It requires a larger number of men to carry on the service in the harbour of Quebec than in that of Montreal. In the latter harbour the ships lie along the wharf proper, while at Quebec the ships lie out in the stream. It is necessary to send the Water Police as far down the river as the Isle of Orleans, and beyond.

MR. POPE.

It is also necessary to send them across the river to Indian coves. Speaking, as I believe, the opinion of our leading commercial men, I hope the Government will not select the present year to reduce the Police Force in the harbour of Quebec.

MR. RYAN (Montreal Centre): As I understand the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, it is not the intention of the Government to reduce the force the present year. The same number of men is going to be kept on at Quebec as last year. There is no doubt that this force, both in Montreal and Quebec, has rendered very valuable service. As the hon. Minister has remarked, crimping in Quebec has been nearly quite suppressed. As regards the statement of the hon. member for Hochelaga, in reference to dismissals, there has been no dismissals that I know of, except two aged men. One of them, Sergeant Wilson, has faithfully served his Queen and country for the past fifty years. I am happy to say that the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries intends to recommend to his colleagues that six months' pay be granted to both of these men, as a recognition of their faithful service.

MR. CASGRAIN: I quite agree with the remarks of the hon. member for the county of Quebec, with regard to this service. The number of river police is not sufficient. Forty-five men is the least possible number that we should have for the port of Quebec, and, although there is not so much crimping as formerly, I think the hon. Minister would make a great mistake if he were to reduce the force.

Vote agreed to.

144 Removal of obstructions in navigable Rivers..... 1,500

XVII. LIGHTHOUSE AND COAST SERVICE.

145 Salaries and allowances of lighthouse keepers..... 157,456

146 Agencies, rents and contingencies 19,600

147 Maintenance and repairs to Lighthouses, Fog-Whistles, Buoys and Beacons, Humane Establishments and Provision Depots..... 255,415

148 Cape Rice Light..... 800

149 Completion and construction of Light-houses and Fog-alarms.. 40,000

MR. PLUMB enquired whether any provision had been made for the erection of a fog-whistle at the mouth of the Niagara River. He said the *Globe* newspaper, about six or eight months ago, had