

*Exp. of Marine & Fisheries
Magdalen Islands 45290*

Ottawa, February 4, 1920

The Honourable C. G. Ballantyne,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Ballantyne:

I have received a further wire from the Warden of the County Council, Grindstone, Magdalen Islands, mentioning that, in consequence of the "Montcalm" having been in the ice ever since his last communication, the situation has become very serious. I have been asked to continue to press the Government to send relief at the earliest possible moment.

I appreciate the difficulties with which the Department is confronted in this matter, and feel quite sure that, being apprised as the Department is of the seriousness of the situation, everything possible to relieve it is being done. The copies of the telegrams received from the "Montcalm" which you have kindly had forwarded to me reveal, of course, how impossible it is to expect that vessel to do more than it is attempting at the present time. I have wondered, however, whether in view of the apparent improbability of the "Montcalm" becoming freed for some little time, there would be any way in which the Department could have some other vessel or agency attempt to bring the relief which apparently is so much needed by the people of Magdalen Islands. Doubtless you have been considering alternative methods. If anything more than what has been attempted can be done, I am sure the circumstance that life and health are endangered will be sufficient to justify any course the Department may feel it possible to take.

Yours sincerely,

W L M K

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