SIR J. LENG

I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy is now used by the American, French, and German Transatlantic steamships, fifty of the German steamers having been supplied with the apparatus; and whether, as none of the British Transatlantic liners have adopted the Marconi system because the Postal Telegraphic Department objects to their using it within the three miles limit, the Department will consider the expediency of removing a restriction which places British at a disadvantage as compared with foreign mercantile steamers.

MR. HANBURY

The Postmaster General has no information as to the extent to which the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy has been adopted by the Transatlantic steamships of other nations. The Postmaster General is quite prepared to grant the Marconi Company a licence if suitable terms can be arranged.
MR. BROADHURST (Leicester)

I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade when further progress will be made in connecting lightships and lighthouses with the shore by electric cables?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon)

At the present time three additional lighthouses are in course of being connected with the shore by electric cables. It has been thought better to postpone the work of connecting more lightships pending further results of the experiments with the system of wireless telegraphy.

MR. BROADHURST

Can the right honourable Gentleman give the names of the lighthouses?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE

Godrevy, the Skerries, and Walney Island.
MR. ASCROFT (Oldham)

I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has received any information respecting the collision between the steamship "R. F. Matthews" and the East Goodwin Light Vessel; and whether, seeing that the men on the latter owe their rescue to their being able to send a message through Marconi's wireless telegraph system with which the lightship was fitted, the advisability of supplying all lighthouses and light vessels with a similar apparatus is being considered by the Board of Trade?

MR. RITCHIE (Croydon)

said, I have not yet received an official report as to the collision between the steamship "R. F. Matthews" and the East Goodwin light vessel. As intimated in my reply to the honourable Baronet the Member for Cambridge on April 13, the possibility of adapting the wireless system of telegraphy to lighthouses and light-vessels is receiving careful consideration by the Board of Trade and other Departments interested.