

Mr. CHISHOLM: I would also ask the minister for his assurance that this fearful creature "patronage" will vanish from that part of the country.

Mr. CARVELL: I think my hon. friend had some evidence a few months ago that patronage had vanished so far as I was concerned.

Mr. CHISHOLM: I reported to the minister what went on down there, and he sent instructions to the foreman, but the foreman did not act on those instructions as faithfully as I desired, and carried on his patronage as usual both in the matter of labour and in the distribution of lumber. Favouritism in the selection of labour was quite evident, although pretensions were made that an effort was being made to carry out the minister's request. This lumber might very well have been supplied by the people around, but instead of that the job was handed over to two merchants and they controlled the distribution. It might, perhaps, be said that these men were more capable of supplying the lumber on short notice, but that is not true. The people who could supply it on the shortest notice were the people in the immediate vicinity, but these men were not given a chance to furnish the material. I regard this policy as unbusinesslike and partisan.

Sir HERBERT AMES: I would like to ask the hon. member for Inverness if any improvement has been made in the little harbour of the little island immediately opposite Port Hood. I had occasion to visit there several years ago, and I saw a very beautiful natural little harbour in the island being gradually filled up at the entrance. I took some interest in the matter and endeavoured to get the channel opened, but did not succeed at the time.

Mr. CHISHOLM: I must thank my hon. friend for his assistance at that time; I had his very active co-operation. There was some dredging done there, but very little. It is a natural harbour, and of great service to the people around there. My hon. friend is not likely to forget it, because he had an unpleasant experience there and lost a very valuable piece of property. There has not been as much work done at this place as either I or my hon. friend would like, but I have a strong feeling that something will be done in the near future. I am promoting the matter. I am also endeavouring to get the work of finishing the closing of the northern entrance of Port Hood har-

[Mr. Carvell.]

bour and am assured that this work will be resumed just as soon as the finances of the country will permit.

Mosher's Bay — Repairs to breakwater, \$1,300.

Mr. DUFF: I see by the Auditor General's Report for 1917 (page V—151) that \$3,697.61 was expended on this work last year. I see that S. G. Rawding rented his dory for ninety-four days at 25 cents a day; tools, June-October, 120 days, at \$1.50; gasoline boat, 65 days, at \$5. I really cannot see why it was necessary to hire this dory and gasoline boat. I do not know of any work they could be used for. I might also say, after reading some letters I received from my constituents last week calling my attention to the fact that this gentleman figured in certain tenders for logs for a breakwater in the county of Lunenburg, that in my opinion the logs could be purchased at a much lower price if new tenders were called for.

Mr. CARVELL: What is the tender price?

Mr. DUFF: I only have the information given in these letters.

Mr. CARVELL: I should like to have the information, and then I will certainly follow it up.

Mr. DUFF: I shall be very pleased to write to the minister about it.

Ross' Ferry—Repairs to wharf, \$750.

Mr. McKENZIE: How will this work be done?

Mr. CARVELL: This is to renew the top of the outer block of the wharf built by the department in 1896-97. It consists of a small amount of round creosoted timber, native timber, etc. I imagine that the work will have to be done by day's labour. I doubt very much if it would be economical to have specifications drawn for a small work like that.

Mr. McKENZIE: There may be some difficulty in drawing specifications, but the wharf is in a very public place and it is easy of access. I have no objection to everybody getting a share of work of this kind in a country place like this, but I do fear that unless specific instructions are given to Mr. Bernasconi he will fall into exactly the same line he always finds it convenient to fall into. He is a very good engineer, but we have heard of a good man in the old days who had the leprosy although he was a very excellent gentleman. Mr. Bernasconi has the political