

Mr. HAGGART. Will the hon. Minister state whether that expenditure on the St. Pierre River is between the Lachine Canal and the St. Lawrence ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think it is at the mouth of the canal—from the mouth to this river.

Mr. HAGGART. The ditch from Lachine down to the St. Pierre River is completed. There is a culvert under the Lachine Canal for the purpose of carrying that into the water of the St. Pierre River, and if I do not mistake it, this is for the deepening of the St. Pierre River between the Lachine Canal and the St. Lawrence.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. That will be north of the canal.

Mr. HAGGART. No, south of the canal, not on the canal at all. It is for the deepening of the river between the Lachine Canal and the St. Lawrence. The river that we do not interfere with at all by the canal. The reason assigned for the building of the ditch from Lachine down to the St. Pierre River, which goes under the canal, was that we interrupted the flow of water by the construction of the Lachine Canal. It was a very poor justification for the expenditure of \$140,000 but our Government were responsible entirely for it, but to ask for the deepening of the river between the canal and the St. Lawrence is to ask what I do not think there is the slightest justification for. It can have only one object, the draining of the land of parties situated between the Lachine Canal and the St. Lawrence River, whose property is not interfered with by the construction of the Lachine Canal. The river is carried under the canal.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Perhaps it is to facilitate the flowing way of the water.

Mr. HAGGART. Yes, but the natural stream is there. We have provided a channel under our own works, and after that there is the river in a state of nature.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. What was the \$140,000 spent for ?

Mr. HAGGART. To build a ditch to drain the village of Lachine down to the St. Pierre River, and provide a culvert to allow it to flow under the canal; and from the canal down to the St. Lawrence the river St. Pierre runs in its natural bed.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. I know the locality well. This river has been filled in by this canal and by this ditch coming from Lachine and by the overflow of water within the last five or six years, and the health committee of Montreal have been making application to the Government to abate the nuisance. The people around there have complained, and have applied to the provincial board of health, and it is probably

Mr. BLAIR.

on account of the representations they have made that this vote is asked for now. But I must say that I think that \$40,000 will be sufficient not only to deepen this river which is a small river, a mere brook, but also to cover it, so that the nuisance created by the water flowing into it from Lachine shall cease. I draw the attention of the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) especially to that so that before spending any money, he may see whether it would not be advisable under the recommendation of his engineers to entirely cover this portion of the River St. Pierre.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. My engineer stated to me that \$140,000 was expended for the purpose of deepening and straightening the St. Pierre River in the upper part, that would be north of the canal, I suppose.

Mr. HAGGART. Yes.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am advised now that \$40,000 more is required in order to complete that job from the south side of the canal to the mouth of the river. I confess that I have no personal knowledge with regard to it; but it has been represented to me that this amount is required. The method in which the money is to be spent, has, of course, been detailed to me by the engineer.

Mr. HAGGART. No doubt, it will take \$40,000 to deepen the St. Pierre River from the canal to the St. Lawrence. But what justification is there for such an expenditure? We have already spent a large sum to provide a clear channel for this river notwithstanding the presence of the Lachine Canal, and now we are called upon to deepen the river all the way from the canal to the St. Lawrence.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. But that is made necessary by reason of the work that has been done, and the deepening of the river alone will not suffice; it will be necessary to cover it up and make a regular sewer of it in order to protect the health of the inhabitants there. There is the municipality of St. Paul and also St. Gabriel ward of Montreal that are specially interested in having that work done as soon as possible, because, as I have stated, the health committee of Montreal and the provincial board of health, will certainly take steps to force the Government to do what is necessary.

Mr. FOSTER. What is it that goes into the ditch above the canal ?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. I understand that the sewage of Lachine goes into it, and that it is discharged into what remains of the St. Pierre River, which is really an open ditch running through a thickly populated part of Montreal.