

Canals, chargeable to capital—Welland canal—electric lighting and power plant, \$50,000.

Mr. BERGERON. I suppose this would be a good time to ask my hon. friend if a report published the other day in the papers is correct, that in a speech delivered somewhere in Ontario he stated that the government intended to deepen the Welland canal to 25 feet and to build the Georgian Bay canal and the Hudson Bay Railway.

Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM (Minister of Railways and Canals). What I said was that these were three projects that would need and would deserve the attention of the public of Canada at no distant date. I was dealing with the transportation problem, and placed those three portions of the problem before the public. I did say that the Hudson Bay Railway would be constructed without delay, and I repeat that. I discussed the other two projects in a general way, pointing out that if Canada was to compete with a deepened Erie canal it would be necessary to deepen the Welland canal to 25 feet.

Mr. LANCASTER. Did the hon. gentleman say anything at St. Catharines about the Hudson Bay Railway?

Mr. GRAHAM. My hon. friend was asking me about a later speech, and possibly a better one.

Mr. LANCASTER. I agree that the speech made at St. Catharines by the hon. gentleman was not a very good one in respect of getting his candidate elected.

Mr. GRAHAM. We cannot tell that yet.

Mr. LANCASTER. The Reform papers reported the hon. minister as saying at St. Catharines that the government were going to deepen the Welland canal. That is where the Welland canal is, and he may have had some other reason for saying that at that particular place. If the minister states that the government are only considering the three projects, that is one thing; but the people of the county of Lincoln understood the minister to say that the government was going to deepen the Welland canal.

Mr. FOSTER. What is proposed to be done with this vote?

Mr. GRAHAM. It is for the purpose of lighting as well as handling the locks by electricity.

Mr. FOSTER. Is this an amount in addition to other amounts heretofore voted in order to finish the work of electric lighting the canal, and I suppose instituting a plant necessary to do it?

Mr. GRAHAM. This vote is really to complete the plant.

Mr. FOSTER. What the minister is doing is making his own plant for the elec-

Mr. FIELDING.

tric lighting and working of the whole canal.

Mr. GRAHAM. What is being done is we purchase the electricity and are using it for the purpose of opening the locks and lighting the canal.

Mr. FOSTER. You are not producing your own power?

Mr. GRAHAM. No.

Mr. FOSTER. Where does the hon. gentleman get that?

Mr. GRAHAM. From the Cataract Power Company.

Mr. FOSTER. In what way?

Mr. GRAHAM. \$14 per horse-power.

Mr. FOSTER. By ten year contract?

Mr. GRAHAM. A ten year contract.

Mr. FOSTER. What power plant does the minister refer to?

Mr. GRAHAM. That is what is known as the distributing plant.

Mr. FOSTER. Why not say so in your estimates? You speak of it as power plant. Is the whole canal lighted by electricity now?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. What will be the cost?

Mr. GRAHAM. The entire cost is estimated at \$450,000.

Mr. FOSTER. For erecting the plant necessary to distribute and light the canal?

Mr. GRAHAM. No, we operate all the gates and bridges with electricity. This covers the opening and shutting of all the lock gates and bridges.

Mr. FOSTER. But this does not include anything for operating. It is on capital account and is for installation.

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, but we install the machinery for opening the gates. It is not merely a transmission plant for lighting.

Mr. FOSTER. Then all the plant necessary to light the canal and operate the different gates and bridges is to cost \$450,000. From whom has the plant been obtained and in what way?

Mr. GRAHAM. From different companies and all by tender and contract.

Mr. FOSTER. What will be the cost of maintenance when the whole installation is completed?

Mr. GRAHAM. About \$15,000 will cover the operation.

Mr. HAGGART. Will that be any saving on the old plan?

Mr. GRAHAM. It ought to be some saving when we do all the work by electricity.