

Supply—Public Works

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): I always thought Wainwright was in Alberta, Mr. Chairman, and I would ask that the item for a public building for Wainwright be charged up to Alberta and not to Saskatchewan.

Item agreed to.

Vancouver—Winch building—taxes, \$8,901.87.

Mr. GARDINER: What are these taxes for?

Mr. ROBB: These were the taxes that had accrued from the time we took over the property up to the end of the taxable year. That was the bargain we had with them.

Mr. GARDINER: The property is not taxable now?

Mr. ROBB: No.

Mr. DUNNING: Only for local improvements.

Item agreed to.

Experimental farms—new buildings, \$74,000.

Mr. GARDINER: Where are these new buildings located?

Mr. DUNNING: This item covers practically every one of the farms. I will read the list if my hon. friend desires.

Mr. GARDINER: If it is a long list I do not want it read.

Mr. DUNNING: It is a long list, including nearly every farm. Summarized, the amount is \$65,910 for the Central experimental farm, Ottawa, and \$95,900 for the branch farms.

Item agreed to.

Parrsboro—harbour improvements—further amount required, \$6,500.

Mr. SMITH (Cumberland): Would the minister explain this item?

Mr. ROBB: This is for the completion of the contract.

Mr. SMITH (Cumberland): Is this in addition to the contract price?

Mr. DUNNING: The amount of \$6,500 is required for the following purposes:

(1) To pay balance due Minas Basin Dredging Co., on dredging contract.....	\$3,434 38	
(2) In memo. of April 7, 1926, the chief engineer states that an amount of \$2,000 is required to improve the approach to the new wharf and also to improve the channel and basin. The estimated cost of this work is as follows:—		
1,050 cu. yds. scow measurement, mud, clay and gravel at \$1.50..	\$1,575 00	
425 cu. yds. overcast at \$1.00..	425 00	
		2,000 00

[Mr. Lucas.]

(3) Providing additional guard to public wharf under contract with Mr. Thos. P. Charleson..	413 00
(4) Replacement of beach protection Contingencies..	500 00 152 62

Total... \$6,500 00

Item agreed to.

Matane—in full and final settlement of the claim of H. Dussault & Co. in connection with their contract for dredging in 1923-1924, \$19,025.60.

Mr. GARDINER: Would the minister explain this item?

Mr. ROBB: This amount of \$19,025.60 is required to pay Horace Dussault & Company in settlement of their claim for extra compensation due to the difficult and unforeseen nature of materials encountered when dredging under their contract in 1923-1924. The company's claim was for \$33,000, but the district engineer has recommended a payment of \$19,025.60. The company have not yet accepted that, but we are putting that amount in the estimates, and we will pay it to them subject to their giving the government a clearance in full settlement of their claim.

Mr. GARDINER: Is there any provision in contracts of this character that where the company comes up against unforeseen difficult conditions, they shall be paid a higher rate than set out in the contract?

Mr. ROBB: It is purely a matter of equity in dealing with these government contracts. I am sure if my hon. friend had a contractor doing work for him, and he considered the contractor had a fair claim, he would deal with him equitably.

Mr. GARDINER: Then there is no provision made in a contract of this description in case difficult conditions are met with?

Mr. DUNNING: It often turns out that the physical conditions are different from what was expected when the contract was let. That is the chief trouble in my department. The borings disclose certain physical conditions, but when the work is started the actual conditions are found to be different. That is usually the basis of claims of this sort. They are very difficult to adjust, and considerations of equity must rule.

Item agreed to.

Ontario — Bracebridge — breakwater repairs..	\$ 1,500
Cobourg—harbour improvements..	14,200
Collingwood—dredging..	2,500
Grand Bend—repairs to pier..	2,500
Kagawong—wharf repairs and extension..	2,500
Kenora—wharf..	9,000