

not the case until the wharf had been repaired. I do not see why in some sections of the country there should be no wharfage dues charged, while in my county they are charged because the wharf has been transferred to the Marine Department. One rule should apply to all. I am not particular whether a tariff is charged on this wharf or the one I refer to made free, for the revenue obtained out of the one I refer to is so trifling that it would make little difference if no tolls were charged. The harbour cost the government something over \$30,000 and only one boat went there last year.

Mr. WRIGHT. Did I understand the hon. minister correctly that these wharfs are free while under the Public Works Department, but when transferred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, dues are charged.

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is right. Does my hon. friend urge that the wharf at Gravenhurst should be transferred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries at once?

Mr. WRIGHT. It is likely to be long before it is finished unless the work is proceeded with faster.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It will be completed in good time.

Mr. LENNOX. The minister's question is hardly a fair one. Last year we had a statute under discussion, and it was understood that a uniform system was going to be adopted which would work almost automatically. Some regular system should apply, and it should not be left to the discretion of the minister to decide that it will be a hardship to make the transfer in one case and not in another. I understood that last year in many cases the costs of the agent who looked after the collections were quite equal to the amount collected and sometimes far more.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The department pays only 25 per cent of the receipts.

Mr. LENNOX. I think there are cases where the wharfingers are not confined to a percentage. I am not in favour at all of any hardships being inflicted which would only result in collecting a very small amount of fees in proportion to the expenditure, but there should be some uniform system adopted.

Mr. PUGSLEY. There was a wharf built by the old government some twenty years ago upon one of the lakes in the eastern townships and it had never been transferred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries and the old government never collected any wharfage. After I had been minister about a year—the wharf had then been built about nineteen years—there was

Mr. HENDERSON.

a suggestion made to me to transfer the wharf to the Marine Department. Of course I let it be known that the department would charge tolls. All the people were then up in arms. They said it was a monstrous thing. For nineteen years they had enjoyed under both governments free use of the wharf and now the government was going to impose toll. The result was, whether rightly or wrongly, I did not make the transfer.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That only shows the necessity of some system.

Mr. PUGSLEY. So it does, but it is a difficult thing to work out. There are two wharfs, one in New Brunswick and one in Nova Scotia, that pay one-third of the total tolls collected from wharfs throughout the whole Dominion. One of these wharfs is at Digby and the other at Campbellton.

Mr. BRADBURY. Last year I drew attention to the condition at Selkirk. The Public Works Department controls the dock at that place. There has been considerable expenditure on that dock, and I understood there was to be some arrangement by which it would come under the control of the Marine and Fisheries Department. I am not anxious to see a change if dues are to be collected, but what does take place is this. There is a wharfinger supposed to be there, but who is a private banker, and he levies, I presume by authority of the department, a certain fee on each steamboat and fishing boat that comes to the dock. I understand he collects something like \$300 a year of which the government does not get a cent. It all goes into his pocket and he does no work that I know of. As a rule, the dock is controlled by Captain William Robertson, who is the largest lumber shipper in that locality, and you generally find the dock crowded with his lumber. There is no advantage to the government in these tolls which are charged and they are a hardship on the steamboat men. I would just as soon see this fee done away with altogether, and have an absolutely free dock.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am surprised at my hon. friend's statement, because if a wharfinger has been appointed, that would imply that the wharf had been handed over to the Marine Department. My department does not appoint any wharfingers.

Mr. BRADBURY. I may not be correct in saying he is a wharfinger, but he collects the money and keeps it.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Is there a harbour master in Selkirk?

Mr. BRADBURY. Not that I know of, unless this man acts as harbour master.