

menced some years ago, and is not yet completed. It is intended to afford protection for fishing boats, and is very much required. As it stands to-day, it is not of very much use, because it is not carried far enough into the harbour to afford proper protection. I mention it in the hope that the minister can see his way, if not this year, then next year, to make the necessary provision for extending that breakwater, so that the money that has already been spent upon it will not be unremunerative.

Mr. MONK. I will make a note of my hon. friend's request.

Blue Rocks Island, breakwater, \$500.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Antigonish). I observe in the estimates for last year an item for Bayfield breakwater, \$15,000. Of this \$6,250 was voted before the dissolution of the last parliament, and the other \$8,750 was voted since the present government came into power. I wish to ask the minister why this item has been dropped in the estimates of this year. This is a very urgent work. It was begun many years ago, and considerable money has been expended to make that a safe harbour. The longer the work is delayed the more inconvenience the people will suffer and the greater will be the liability of the harbour to fill with sand, necessitating more dredging.

Mr. MONK. The government did not see its way clear, in view of all the expenditures which it has to make to continue the work referred to by my hon. friend. But I will make a note of it.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Antigonish). On whose recommendation was the work discontinued? Did the engineer report that it was not urgent?

Mr. MONK. No, I do not think so.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Antigonish). Did the minister take the advice of anybody in respect of the work? What information did he get to justify him in dropping this item? To my mind it is very important that this work should go on, otherwise the money expended on it already is liable to be wasted.

Mr. MONK. We have to provide for important works this year in our large national ports in order properly to equip them for the trade and to keep the trade in Canada, and we found that we could not continue at this juncture the work which my hon. friend refers to.

Mr. LEMIEUX. What special works are there at the national ports this year?

Mr. MONK. We have considerable works at all our ocean ports in conformity with the report of the Transportation Commission. We are undertaking considerable works at St. John, some at Halifax, and we

hope to undertake some at Quebec. We have had urgent demands from the ports on the Pacific, and it is absolutely necessary for us to do some work there.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Antigonish). I do not minimize the importance of the ports to which the hon. minister has referred. But these small ports, insignificant as they may appear to him, are of great importance to the people who live in proximity to them. The exports at Bayfield for 1910, consisting of cattle, sheep, horses and agricultural products, amounted to \$25,950, and the imports amounted to a considerable sum also. This information I take from a copy of a report made by the resident engineer of the Public Works Department at Antigonish a couple of years ago. It is from this port that the farmers of Antigonish county, and some from Guysborough county, ship their cattle and agricultural products to Newfoundland, and unless it is made available, they will have to ship by rail to Mulgrave, a distance of forty or fifty miles from Antigonish, and load their cattle on vessels there. Bayfield should not have been dropped out of sight without some reason. The minister should have consulted his engineer as to whether this was a port which he could neglect for a year or two without anybody suffering. I find that practically every item which was in the estimates of last year for the county of Antigonish, and provided for by the late government, has been dropped this year. The minister's own engineers reported that these works were necessary and proper. It happened that during the election campaign last fall, when a part of this money was available, it was not expended. In the first place an election was on, which might be considered good reason why public expenditures should not be made, it was not deemed advisable to go on with the work unless the whole of the money required for it was available. I say it is not fair to the county of Antigonish to be penalized because of the money that was voted, five-twelfths of the total amount was not used. I urge on the minister to remember this port of Bayfield when the supplementary estimates are being prepared, and to see that the extension of the breakwater goes on. I may tell him frankly that, as far as political reasons go, it would suit me if the work did not go on at all; but I look to the larger interests of the community, and in this matter politics should not count at all. It is my duty as the representative of the county to call attention to this important work and to urge the minister to provide for it in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. MONK. I will give my hon. friend's observations every consideration. He must not imagine that political considerations move us in these matters. My own county