

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Harris: There were two fires, one in Edmonton and one in Ottawa, which destroyed goods to the value of \$116,050, and this is the account.

Mr. Nesbitt: That apparently answers what I have in mind. There are four headings in this item, namely "obsolete", "unserviceable", "lost" or "destroyed". I wonder whether the minister has any sort of breakdown?

Mr. Harris: Just the two; \$1,049.58 for the one and \$115,000 for the other. Both were fires.

Mr. Nesbitt: Then I take it that actually this amount is just to cover the two losses or the two fires?

Mr. Harris: That is correct.

Mr. Nesbitt: And a word such as "obsolete" particularly is actually unnecessary?

Mr. Harris: No.

Mr. Nesbitt: What is the explanation for its presence?

Mr. Harris: It is necessary because this is the wording of the vote to which it refers.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Harbours and rivers engineering branch—

Acquisition, construction and improvements of harbour and river works—

Construction, acquisition, major repairs and improvements of, and plans and sites for, harbour and river works listed in the details of the estimates, provided that treasury board may increase or decrease the amount within the vote to be expended on individual listed projects—further amounts required—

590. British Columbia and Yukon, \$1.

Mr. Green: Will the minister explain this item?

Mr. Harris: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The vote has to do with dredging in the Vancouver narrows, \$236,229. However, we found an item of \$236,228 available from savings in other listed projects, so the vote is now \$1, indicating that we do not need the money but are seeking authority to do the particular work involved.

Mr. Green: What I wanted to know is this. Does this complete the project in the first narrows?

Mr. Harris: There is nothing to indicate whether or not this will complete it, but down at the bottom of the page I see that this work was requested by Mr. H. Green, M.P., so perhaps he could tell me.

Mr. Green: Thank you very much. Some years ago one of the departments, I am not sure which one it was, had a model constructed of the first narrows in order that

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

proper planning might be done for completing the whole job of improving the entrance to Vancouver harbour. There was also an investigation made, as a result of which it was recommended that a causeway should be placed at the second narrows.

Has the minister any information about those two projects? I asked the Minister of Transport about this matter last summer but he was unable to give me any details. Both are extremely important in so far as the development of the harbour is concerned. I should like to know whether all this work has been dropped, or just what is being done at the present time. The model was at the University of British Columbia, and I think it was built at a cost of about \$200,000. This was in 1954. It was built by the research council.

Mr. Harris: I see I did not turn the page. At any rate the work has been requested by Mr. Campney, a man by the name of Arthur Laing, the greater Vancouver metropolitan industrial development commission, and sundry merchants and chambers of commerce in the city of Vancouver. I also find that, as my hon. friend has said, there was a committee to study this matter and a statement was made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce in 1953. This apparently is the completion of the work, but there is no note of the model at the University of British Columbia. However, I see that on the committee there were a number of persons representing the university as well as various other public bodies. I must say that I am not in a position to say whether or not that completes the work, but I will make inquiries and let my hon. friend know.

Mr. Green: I am afraid it is just the completion of the first stage.

Mr. Harris: That may be so.

Mr. Pearkes: I should like to know what projects were not completed in order to make available this money to which the minister refers.

Mr. Harris: All the projects on which contracting work was completed have been paid off. There is none incomplete. But up till this date we have not paid out all the money we had voted, and we found this amount; but next year we may very well have to pick up the sum of \$236,000 to cover work now being done and then completed.

Mr. Pearkes: Were there not some projects on which the work was not completed in order that money might be saved, on which the original contract had not been completed so that money might be transferred to this particular work?