

Supply—Public Works—B.C.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I am sorry I have not that information here. I can secure it for my hon. friend.

Item agreed to.

British Columbia

Argenta—wharf reconstruction, \$10,500.
Celista—wharf reconstruction, \$4,000.
Chemainus—renewal of float and approach, \$1,700.

Columbia river (below Burton)—improvements to diversion work, \$1,500.

Eagle bay—wharf, \$2,500.

Fraser river—improvements—under contract, \$100,000.

Fraser river (lower)—operation of snag boat, \$30,000.

Fraser river—contribution towards protection work at Canoe pass, the municipality of Delta to contribute a like amount—under construction, \$2,000.

Fraser river—contribution towards protection work at Matsqui, the provincial government, the municipality and the C.N.R. each to contribute a like amount, \$3,500.

Ginols—wharf repairs, \$1,800.

Harbours and rivers generally—repairs and improvements, \$30,000.

Kaslo—wharf reconstruction—under contract, \$21,000.

Magna Bay—wharf reconstruction, \$7,000.

Minnekhada—wharf reconstruction, \$1,600.

McDonald's landing—wharf replacement, \$1,500.

Nanaimo—crib, \$6,600.

New Masset—wharf repairs and float, \$1,100.

Penticton—breakwater, \$1,900.

Port Haney—wharf extension, \$3,700.

Port Moody—wharf repairs, \$6,000.

Saanichton—wharf repairs, \$2,000.

Seymour Arm—wharf repairs, \$3,300.

Sidney—wharf repairs, \$3,800.

Stewart—wharf improvements—under contract, \$2,500.

Vancouver—Stanley park—foreshore protection, \$8,000.

Victoria—wharf repairs, \$3,100.

Victoria harbour—dredging—under contract, \$20,000.

William Head—quarantine station—to complete repairs to wharfs, \$14,000. — Total, \$294,600.

Mr. HANBURY: I would now like to direct the question to the minister which I asked a few moments ago, with regard to Ripple rock. I should like to ask him if he can tell me when the information will be available as to the cost of removing this rock, and when the recommendation of the engineers will be brought down. This is a very serious matter to all the shipping interests of the Pacific coast, whether the shipping has to do with the northern part of British Columbia or Alaska; it is a matter of interest not only to Canadian but to American shippers as well. It has been a menace there for a number of years, and unless it is removed some day we will have a very serious accident and the Canadian government will be

[Mr. Hanbury.]

responsible for permitting that menace to remain as it is to-day. I would ask the minister to give this matter his very serious consideration; I hope the report will be tabled at any early date and that he will take steps to see that this rock is removed at once.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Of course my hon. friend will notice that no immediate action is contemplated, because no provision is made in the estimates for this work. I am not very familiar with the matter except that I know there is rather an acute difference of opinion as to whether this suggested action should be taken. However, a report is in course of preparation, I believe, and when it is received it will be available to my hon. friend.

Mr. HANBURY: Just in connection with the minister's statement that an acute difference of opinion exists, I would suggest to him that fully ninety-five per cent of the shipping people of British Columbia desire to have this rock removed, and I would say that fully ninety per cent of the population of British Columbia desire its removal. I do not think the different opinion which is held by five per cent or ten per cent of the people interested should interfere with action being taken in the matter.

Mr. PLUNKETT: The hon. gentleman may be speaking for his constituency in this regard, but I wish to enter a protest on behalf of my constituency on Vancouver island in regard to the removal of Ripple rock. There may be a decided opinion in the constituency represented by my hon. friend, but there is an equally decided opinion on Vancouver island in regard to this matter. The commission which was appointed to consider the matter was composed of engineers who were asked originally to consider a bridge. Then they were asked to consider the removal of an obstruction to marine navigation. Navigation has been going on for over sixty years, and although the obstruction has been there no lives have been lost upon Ripple rock. I do not want hon. members, in the consideration of this question, to start something on the Pacific coast which may come into conflict with maritime rights by the division of Vancouver island from the mainland. I will say nothing further on the subject at the present time, but when the report is brought down I purpose to have a great deal to say, and I shall not be in accord with the hon. member who has just made his representations to the house.