

*Vancouver Harbour Commission*

pose to move that it is expedient that a loan be made to the harbour commission of Montreal of an amount not exceeding \$12,000,000. The loan is made under the same conditions as previous loans have been made to this harbour commission; there is no change at all. The contention is that additional works are required to meet the developments of the port of Montreal, and we propose to make a loan on which they will have to pay interest, as they have paid interest on the money advanced previously.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I thank my hon. friend for the information, but he has not added to our knowledge of the subject at all. I merely express the hope that when he brings on his motion to-morrow we may have full particulars of what this money is to be spent for.

Mr. CARDIN: Certainly.

Motion agreed to.

#### VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSION LEASE OF ELEVATOR No. 1 TO WHEAT POOL

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Vancouver Centre): Some weeks ago I placed a question on the order paper regarding the leasing of No. 1 elevator in Vancouver. The answer I received conveyed the idea that nothing was under direct consideration. I desire to bring the matter again to the attention of the government and must do so with some considerable force because of a distinct conflict of information emanating from government sources. To make my point clear I would like to read an editorial appearing in the Morning Star of Vancouver, under date of June 4:

According to an Ottawa despatch the conference in progress over the proposal that the wheat pool lease No. 1 elevator here have ended in a "settlement agreeable to both sides". If the terms of the settlement are those contained in the telegram there need be no doubt that they are satisfactory to the wheat pool. "The elevator", it is stated, "will continue to be operated this summer by the harbour commissioners, but it is agreed that by the end of October the commission will notify the pool whether or not the elevator will then be leased to it. If it is to be retained under the harbour commission the pool will then be free to go ahead and provide such facilities of its own as are required."

This is simply so much camouflage. Beneath the smooth phraseology which implies that the disposition of the elevator is still an open question may be discerned the intention to hand it over to the wheat pool next fall. The commissioners will continue to operate during the summer—when the elevator is doing little or no business—but before the end of October the pool is either to step in or "be free to go ahead and provide such facilities of its own as are required". The pool, however, as everybody knows, is perfectly free to go ahead at once and provide its

[Mr. Cardin.]

own facilities in Vancouver. Moreover, it cannot wait until October before it makes its arrangements for handling the new crop through this port. It follows that it would not delay beginning building operations a single day were it not very sure that the government would provide it with facilities by surrendering No. 1 elevator through the harbour board.

There can be no reasonable doubt, if the despatch is authoritative, that when Colonel Kirkpatrick returns to Vancouver he will have a very clear idea of the decision the harbour board is to render four months hence—when protest will be futile in the face of the accomplished fact.

I wish most respectfully but urgently to request a clear, definite statement from the government on this important matter, and I also wish to direct attention to the fact that every large representative business group, the board of trade, the shipping interests, the merchants' exchange and others in Vancouver are deeply concerned and interested in this question. I am not expressing an opinion; I merely draw these facts to the attention of the government and in justice to those interests I think before a decision is finally arrived at a definite statement should be given by the government officially. If the government are not prepared to make this statement to-day I would ask that a statement be given as soon as possible, and that the agreements or correspondence be laid on the table of the House in order that we may know exactly what is in the mind of the government and what proposals are under consideration.

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Minister of Marine and Fisheries): For the present I may say that a request has been made by the people to whom my hon. friend referred to the harbour commissioners to lease No. 1 elevator, and representations have also been made to the department. A meeting was held in Ottawa between representatives of the pool and the president of the harbour commission of Vancouver, and it was agreed between the parties that everything would be maintained for the present as it is now; no change is to be made. It is understood that by the end of October a decision will be reached one way or the other, and the harbour commission will give a definite answer then. This proposal has been accepted by the representatives of the pool, who have agreed to wait until the end of October for a definite answer from the harbour commission. So for the present the position is absolutely unchanged, and if any change is made a definite answer will be given in October next.

Mr. STEVENS: One further question, if I may be permitted. Is there any understanding between the government and the pool that the harbour commissioners are to give a decision granting the lease?