

Prince Edward Island and mainland—revote of lapsed amount, \$14,000.

Mr. MACDONALD: I was not in when the Prince Edward Island and mainland vote was passed. Was that for cabling or telephone? I understand there is telephone communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland.

Mr. REID: I explained that item of \$14,000 in the estimates. An agreement was made at the time of Confederation that the Government were to keep up that communication, and \$7,000 a year was the arrangement made with the Anglo-American Telegraph Company. Since Confederation the Government have been paying \$7,000 a year as a subsidy. This has been paid every year. This \$14,000 is for 1915 and 1916. The reason it was not paid in these years, as I explained, was this: The Department of Public Works was negotiating a new agreement with the Anglo-American as to the rate of toll—and the hon. gentleman knows when you come to make an arrangement for tolls it cannot be done in a hurry. While negotiations were being carried on the Department of Public Works refused to pay the subsidy. When an agreement has been made and signed the Government has to pay the subsidy, and not having paid it in 1915 and 1916, they have to pay it now.

Mr. MACDONALD: Nothing to do with telephones?

Mr. REID: No.

Mr. McKENZIE: Will this matter come under the Railway Board?

Mr. REID: I suppose so, because all these rates are under the Railway Board of Canada.

Laprairie—repairs to wharf and completion of approach, \$4,000.

Three Rivers—repairs to wharf—revote, \$9,500.

Mr. REID: These two items were held over. The Laprairie-Napierville item was for repairs to wharf, but I am willing that that item should be struck out. The wharf should be kept in repair, but we will drop it.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I saw the hon. gentleman from Laprairie, who was called away, and he maintains the objection he made last night. I know the conditions because I was brought up in that district. In the old days there was a steamer service between Montreal and Laprairie, but this was abandoned ten years ago. The last boat

which plied between Montreal and Laprairie was destroyed by fire seven or eight years ago, and you can see the remains of the steamer near the wharf, and the channel which was used by that steamboat from Montreal to Laprairie has been partly filled, so that even if you were to repair the wharf, which is not badly in need of repair, you would have to dig a new channel between Montreal and Laprairie for that size of boat.

Mr. REID: I am striking it out.

Mr. LEMIEUX: It is not necessary.

Mr. REID: There was the other item for Three Rivers, to which my hon. friend (Mr. Bureau) raised some objection last night. Last year we had an appropriation of \$20,000 to repair this wharf, which is used on a large scale for the unloading of coal. The officials tell me it is absolutely necessary to finish up this work, and I would not feel justified in dropping the item altogether. I will have to ask the committee to allow it to stand.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Still you have the objection made by the hon. member from Three Rivers, which seems to be very radical. He said last night:

An additional amount was voted to complete the work, and it seems to be in perfect shape now. It was filled up with quicksand. That was washed out and it was refilled, branches, dirt and sand being put on the top. I do not see where the work is now required. They have been putting stone on the end of the wharf that faces the current and that meets the ice jams in the spring.

Considering the view taken by the hon. member from Three Rivers, who has a perfect knowledge of the situation, I do not see how the minister would be justified in maintaining that item.

Mr. REID: I hardly think the hon. member for Three Rivers went into the matter as thoroughly as he should have done.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Will the minister promise in this case, as he did in the case of the telephone lines, that before spending the money he will see that a proper inspection is made, and that no money will be spent unless it is absolutely required.

Mr. REID: I will certainly do so.

New Brunswick—St. John harbour—extension of and repairs from Negro Point breakwater, \$250,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Would the minister state what the work would cost?

Mr. REID: The work if proceeded with would cost \$750,000 to complete. We will