

the old bridge, but allow it to remain so that our people can reach the market town of Campbellton over it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend from Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) has made out a very strong case. We do in some cases grant aid to interprovincial bridges. If that precedent were to be followed, I suppose that something could be said in favour of the policy suggested. If we were willing to do that, we could put some value on the bridge and make it a gift to the place and credit it to the Intercolonial as the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Barker) suggests. These are matters of detail. I will bring the subject before my colleagues, and, perhaps, later on, we can give the committee some further information. There is some force in the suggestion that, if this bridge is not useful to us and we should only have to take it down, the least we can do is to make it of some use to the people of the locality. If the province of New Brunswick and the province of Quebec and the municipalities interested were prepared to contribute a fair share, I think that would be a reasonable and fair arrangement.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. I do not say anything in opposition to the request of the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil). But I think that the widening of the piers and erecting of a new bridge would greatly exceed the cost of providing for a carriage way on either side of the new bridge that is to be constructed. If this is regarded as a necessity in that section, I would advise my hon. friend (Mr. Marcil) to use his influence with the government—and I think the influence of an important supporter like the hon. gentleman would have great weight—to get a carriage way put on either side of the new structure.

New superstructure for South-west Miramichi bridge, \$90,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The whole cost of the steel superstructure will be \$170,000, of which there was to have been paid during the past year according to the estimates, and, I suppose, has been paid, as the year is closed, \$75,000. So, we need \$95,000 more to pay for the steel structure. Then we have to provide for labour, false work, painting new spans, flooring, engineering and other expenses, and other items which will bring this \$95,000 up to \$122,000. Against that we have the value of the old span which is estimated at \$32,000, leaving \$90,000 to be provided. These are the spans which it is proposed to transfer to Prince Edward Island.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. I suppose this amount will be taken out of the vote for Prince Edward Island, and the cash made available for the Intercolonial?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes, it will be charged to one and credited to the other.

Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure).

Hon Mr HAGGART. This is the first time we have had a clear statement of a proper credit. Does this finish the bridge?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes.

Mr. BLAIN. Last year, the minister stated that \$60,000 was to be received for this old bridge. How does it come that the value has shrunk \$30,000 since last year? Then, we were told that the superstructure would cost \$132,000. It seems to have crept up about \$40,000 above that amount.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Is my hon. friend (Mr. Blain) sure it is the same bridge?

Mr. BLAIN. The item of last year is to provide a new superstructure, six spans, for the Miramichi bridge, \$72,000, which sum the committee was asked to vote.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There are two Miramichi bridges. The appropriation for this one last year was \$123,000.

Mr. BLAIN. Yes, this is the one.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I cannot explain the difference.

Mr. BLAIN. How much is the total cost of this to be?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. \$200,000.

Mr. BLAIN. For the superstructure alone?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, for everything.

Mr. BLAIN. How much for the superstructure?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. \$170,000.

Mr. BLAIN. That is \$40,000 more than the minister said it would cost. And we were to get credit for the old bridge which was to be sent to the province of Prince Edward Island, this is the same bridge, I take it of \$60,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Perhaps the contract was not let at that time. Which may explain the difference.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. I think the hon. gentleman will find that a statement was made by the minister last year as to the purchase of the bridge to be made from the Hamilton Bridge Company or the company in Toronto. Evidently, he had an understanding and a price fixed before he asked for a vote?

Mr. BLAIN. Will the hon. minister bring down a fuller explanation?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I will bring down the exact contract price and all the other information possible.

Mr. BLAIN. And perhaps he will give a reason why he is charging the old bridge at \$30,000 less than last year.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I will get that information if I can.