

of St. John in particular, as well as to itself if it made clear through the reports of its engineers that such statements are—I shall not say untrue, but at least exaggerated, and that this work is being carried on with the intention of bringing it to completion in the belief that it will be the advantage to the country that it was intended to be when it was initiated many years ago.

Mr. McKENZIE: Surely sufficient work has been performed to enable the department to know whether or not the statements made by the hon. member for Westmoreland are well founded.

Mr. COPP: I want to correct my hon. friend. It was not my statement; I was only repeating what I had heard.

Mr. McKENZIE: I understand—a statement repeated as a rumour or belief that this dredging is filling up as the work goes on. How much money has been expended since the commencement of the work?

Mr. McCURDY: The total amount up to the time of the last progress Estimate, spent by both governments, was \$6,520,492.

Mr. McKENZIE: What have we to show for the expenditure of that large sum?

Mr. McCURDY: Some time when my hon. friend is going to Nova Scotia, if he will take the Canadian Pacific, stop off at St. John and inspect the work there, he will be very much impressed with the work that has been done. It has not yet advanced to the point where it can be used for commercial shipping. There is still to be over \$2,000,000 spent before the present contract is completed.

Mr. McKENZIE: I should think that some of the work is being completed as we go along. We cannot dredge in layers; the dredging would be done over a certain area and to a certain depth, and then the work would be proceeded with on another area. There should be no trouble in ascertaining whether or not the parts that are being dredged are filling up again.

Mr. McCURDY: None of the dredging is down to grade as yet. In other words, to use my hon. friend's own expression, the dredging is done in layers, and all the layers have not been taken off at any one part of the harbour. That is, the maximum depth which is to be reached under the contract has not been attained in any part of the area that is being dredged.

Mr. ROBB: Have they got down to rock at any place?

Mr. McCURDY: At the entrance to the outer dock it is rock excavation, but further out in the bay it is sand, clay and gravel—more movable material. I have just sent a chart over to my hon. friend for his inspection.

Mr. McKENZIE: This picture, although it is somewhat pretty, is Greek to me; I do not make anything of it. It is nice drafting with red letters and figures, but it is absolutely incomprehensible from my standpoint. What I want to know, and what I think the committee wants to know from the minister, is what value the Dominion of Canada is getting for this large expenditure of money. Six million dollars is a considerable amount. We have spent that amount, and we are committed to expend four or five million dollars more under the contract of 1918. It is a proper thing for us to know what we are getting for this.

Mr. McCURDY: About \$2,000,000 more.

Mr. McKENZIE: Is it likely that when we have completed the dredging and the harbour is extended, as it was proposed at the beginning, the harbour will “stay put,” or will it fill up again? There is indication that it will fill up from year to year because the sea action will certainly fill in the space that has been dredged out. This matter should be very closely watched, and if the minister finds that the action of the sea is filling up the space as fast as the old material is being removed, common sense and precaution would teach us to stop the business at once and expend the money, if in St. John, to some better purpose. Have we yet finally taken over the harbour of St. John? A couple of years ago we passed legislation to take over the harbour of St. John and make it a public harbour under the control of a commission. Has that been done?

Mr. McCURDY: My hon. friend is possibly aware that this work which he has been discussing is proceeding under contract. He says: “Why do you not stop and spend the money elsewhere?”

Mr. McKENZIE: The minister will find that the work is useless.

Mr. McCURDY: The contract is in existence and we are operating under the contract.

Mr. McKENZIE: Surely the minister will not say that if the department discover that they have entered into an im-