

it repaired. There was no necessity for buying land there. If the Government spend \$500 on the old wharf, which is in the centre of the population, they will be serving the whole neighbourhood. I think it is unfair to the people of East Bay that this wharf should be built at Ben Eoin, and that the wharf in their own county should be left to go to destruction. I am taking this point in the interest of the people themselves. I know the locality almost as well as I know this Chamber. I am surprised that any engineer should say there were seven wharves in East Bay, and that this wharf is serving 100 families.

Mr. REID: If we put this vote through I do not see that it can be used for repairs to a wharf at some other place.

Mr. CARROLL: I understood the minister to say he would strike it out, if I recommended it. I would not recommend the striking out of anything that would benefit the people in my riding. I would be a foolish man to do anything which was not beneficial to them, if I intended to go back for re-election. That is certainly logic. I am recommending this item should be struck out because it is not in the public interest.

Mr. REID: Then we will strike it out.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I remember something taking place about this matter when I was minister, and I remember that I was pressed to take over that old wharf and put it in repair. Does the minister think there is a prominent place in East Bay where the wharf could be properly placed? Why not insert the word "Ben Eoin wharf, at or near East Bay?" We need not strike out the item.

Mr. REID: If the hon. gentleman thinks the wharf should not be built there I do not want to keep the item in the estimates, but I think it would be better to leave it in, and before the department would proceed with it they could look thoroughly into the matter and decide on the proper course. However, I do not think we should waste time over it, and I move that the item be struck out.

Mr. CARROLL: Would it be in order to make a motion to use \$1,600 of this money to make improvements on the wharf at East Bay?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dugald Stewart): No.

[Mr. Carroll.]

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: This vote is for the construction of a new wharf, and there are several votes under the headings "Harbours and Rivers—Nova Scotia," for new wharves. The Minister of Finance solemnly promised Parliament, on more than one occasion, during the last two years, that no new public works would be undertaken. The late Minister of Public Works also promised Parliament the same thing. I say that on that ground the item should be dropped. This item of \$97,000 for new wharves and repairs in Nova Scotia should be struck from the estimates. Every single item of such a character should be dropped, for the reason that the money will not be expended this year. It is practically impossible to effect repairs to wharves late in the year; it will not be possible to place this work in the hands of competent men before October or November, and it will then be too late. Parliament must meet again before March 31 of next year. There will then be sufficient time to vote these moneys, and no useful purpose can be served by voting them now.

Mr. DAVIDSON: I sincerely hope the minister will not yield to request of the hon. member for Halifax. Nearly all these items are for repairs, and a dollar spent now may mean a saving of a thousand dollars later on, and prevent a good deal of hardship.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: We will attend to it next year.

Mr. DAVIDSON: The hon. gentleman says this is not the time to spend money on wharves in Nova Scotia. I desire to say that from now to the middle of November is the most feasible and practical time for such expenditure. The farmers are not very busy now, and we are having our best weather. I am absolutely astounded to hear the hon. member for Halifax objecting to a paltry expenditure of a little money for repairs to keep the wharves of that province in proper condition. I believe his statement will be received with a great deal of regret and astonishment by the people of his province.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Not at all.

Mr. CLEMENTS: I have no interest in the matter, and it makes no difference to me whether the items are struck out or not, but I want to say that I represent a constituency three times the size of Nova Scotia, and I have a coast line three times the length and breadth of that province,