

dollars. Those gentlemen are making their calculations as if the trade of the harbour of Montreal would not increase at all, and they would be obliged to pay that increased rate on the business as it stands to-day. I claim with these improvements that the harbour of Montreal and the revenue from it will more than pay the interest on that seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The government is really building the dock or the increased wharfage—indirectly if you like, but building it. They say "You build it." Supposing we could not meet our engagements what will the government do? Do you not believe that the government would come and help us and take the harbour under their own charge? In fact, for the last ten years, if I am not mistaken, everything has shown us that the government have felt morally bound to take care of the harbour of Montreal if we could not do it. I shall certainly support the measure, and I think it is only fair that the measure should be carried as it is.

Hon. Mr. OGILVIE—I thought I explained clearly enough to the hon. member before that this is not a question of harbour improvement at all. There is no fault found with the harbour commissioners. The portion of the bill that is objected to is clause 4, because they consider it an outrage to tack that clause on to the end for a dry dock, and the men whose names you read to us from that document are the very men who to-day are against this bill. I told you some time ago that up to 1873 the harbour commissioners certainly had control of the harbour and the expenditure of the harbour, and it was a credit to every one, and they did their business thoroughly and well; and in 1873 or 1874 the government took the control out of the hands of the harbour commissioners by appointing a majority of the harbour commissioners themselves. But, as I said to the hon. Secretary of State a moment ago, the representatives of Montreal on that commission, except the mayor, are against this dry dock.

Hon. Mr. FORGET—I beg your pardon.

Hon. Mr. OGILVIE—I beg your pardon, every one of them except the mayor, and we know why he is not.

Hon. Mr. FORGET—There is nobody against the dry dock in Montreal. All are

unanimous in their desire to have a dry dock on condition that the government build it themselves, but now, my hon. friend says, you are going to build that dry dock in the east end—

Hon. Mr. OGILVIE—I did not say that.

Hon. Mr. FORGET—The hon. gentleman said they were going to spend \$750,000 in the east end, where he knew some gentlemen had property.

Hon. Mr. OGILVIE—They designate the point where it shall be built; they do not leave it to the harbour commissioners.

Hon. Mr. FORGET—When these gentlemen wanted the dry dock some years ago, they wanted to have it built in the west end near the canal, and in fact they began to do it there at that time. The intention was to build a dry dock in the west end when these gentlemen were asking for it. Now that they see it is going to be built in the east end, they have changed their opinion and they think it is going to benefit the mayor of Montreal. But I am told the mayor of Montreal has not got one foot of property there, but it may make some of his property valuable just near the place. They are not going to spend seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars for a dry dock; they are not going to spend any money before they have plans and know what it is going to cost; and if they are not able to build piers and docks and dry docks with that money, they are not going to do it. That is the way I understand it. The government has the control of that yet. They must furnish plans of it within two months and if there is not enough money for it, I understand the dock will not be built.

Hon. Mr. DRUMMOND—The hon. gentleman is entirely wrong in saying that the people are opposing this bill because they want the dry dock in the west end instead of the east end. I disclaim that entirely. If a dry dock is to be built let it be built by the government and let them build it where they like. I deprecated the introduction of sectional feeling in this matter altogether and I deprecate it still. The very persons who signed that petition did it under the idea that the government, which was building dry docks everywhere else, should build this; and every one of them—I have the signatures of men whose names the hon.