

Mr. MEIGHEN: Can the minister give us the name of any one of those wharves?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Yes, a dozen. All the wharves on the Okanagan lakes, practically all the wharves on the coast line on the various islands out of Victoria—thirty or forty in all I would say. We are doing the same with New Brunswick. The wharves in Prince Edward Island are owned and maintained by the Dominion to-day, the same is true of Nova Scotia, of Quebec and of Ontario, but in New Brunswick and British Columbia that has not been the case, and we are now treating those two provinces in the same way as the others have been treated.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How much have we spent on this wharf up to date? And what river is it on?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): This wharf is in Caraquet harbour on the bay of Chaleur. This is our first expenditure, the contract having been let this spring.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not know anything about this wharf, but when I was driving through there my attention was repeatedly drawn to wharves which I was told were built in 1905, 1909, 1910 and there 10 p.m. had never been any boats docked at them up to that time. So I would think that under such conditions the minister should be slow in relieving others of wharves which they have been maintaining.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): We are making a very careful selection.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Of course, where new country is opening up wharves have to be provided to accommodate trade as it develops.

Item agreed to.

Cocagne Cape—Wharf, \$14,000.

Mr. DOUCET: Part of this is a re-vote of last year. Has the minister called for tenders?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Tenders were called for and a contract let.

Mr. DOUCET: How many tenders were received?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Four in all.

Mr. DOUCET: Who were the tenderers and what were their figures?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): The lowest tender was \$12,910 and was received from John W. McManus Co., Ltd. The highest tender was

Mr. J. H. King.]

\$17,107.50. The other tenderers were Bruce L. Simmons, F. L. Boone—G. S. Macdonald, and James E. Kane.

Mr. DOUCET: The contract was awarded last fall?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): December 26, 1923.

Mr. DOUCET: The vote of course was put through in June. This is a much needed wharf, and it is unfortunate that the money voted last year could not have been expended before now. That wharf was not built. This session we have passed estimates that could very well have waited until later on in the session, while the Public Works estimates were not brought down until last week. I quite realize that if the estimates go through only in the last week of June or the first week of July, it is very difficult for the department to get out their plans and specifications, call for tenders, award the contract, and get the work done before the fall. The estimates for these very necessary works, to my mind, should be the very first to be brought down in the House, and at the very beginning of the session. We had a very severe storm in October, 1923, and very much of the repair work now needed in Prince Edward Island is due to that storm. If we do not get the estimates through until the last week in June or the first week in July it is very doubtful if the work can be completed before the fall storm is again upon us in October. If the work is not completed by that time, we may be subject to a recurrence of what has already taken place in many parts of Cape Breton, which was visited by a severe storm last October that washed away much of the work under construction. I submit that the estimates of the Public Works department, in so far as they relate to repairs to breakwaters and wharves occasioned by damage done in the former season, should be put through the House in the early part of the session, so that the work can be gone on with and completed before we have the fall storm again upon us.

Mr. STEVENS: Is this a new work? It merely says: "wharf."

Mr. KING (Kootenay): It is a new work, to construct a wharf 610 feet long and 16 to 50 feet wide, consisting of an earth embankment 180 feet long, and 16 feet wide on top. A contract for this work was let in December of last year. I would be surprised if the work is not pretty well advanced by now.