

that it is not merely a question of grain transportation. As I said the other day, there are misconceptions of what is going on at the port of Quebec, and even to-night it was stated that the facilities there are not used to their capacity. I have here a plan of the harbour, prepared by the harbour commissioners, showing the piers and wharves with the names of the steamship companies which have rented berths, and there is no more vacant space for any other companies requiring accommodation.

Mr. CALDWELL: Might I ask how many applications for space have been refused on account of there not being any more space?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I cannot say, but I can tell my friend that during the last week-end there have never been so many vessels in the port throughout its history. I am sorry my friend from Saltcoats (Mr. Sales) is not in his seat. The other night he not only made a statement which was absurdly wrong, but he induced even his neighbour to repeat the same thing—that the dry dock was not being used at all. My hon. friend from Saltcoats said he found an inch and a half of dust on the machinery there, and the dry dock, he was informed, had not been used at all. I do not think my friend wants to be unfair, I do not think that he or any other member has any bitterness against Quebec because it is Quebec—

Mr. CALDWELL: Hear, hear.

Mr. LAPOINTE:—but his statement was so misleading that I took the trouble to ask the Department of Public Works for figures showing what ships had used the dry dock last year and the year before. I have those figures before me. Last year in the larger dry dock 39 vessels were repaired, and the year before 30; in the smaller dry dock 21 were repaired in 1924 and 20 in 1925.

Mr. CALDWELL: What was the date of the first vessel's going in? I think possibly the member for Saltcoats and the minister are both right. At the time the former was there it is quite likely that no ships had been in that spring; he was there in May.

Mr. LAPOINTE: My friend went there before navigation started.

Mr. CALDWELL: May not the statement of the member for Saltcoats have been correct at that time?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Will not my friend admit that the statement was unfair, that the dry dock was not used at all and there was dust all over the machinery?

[Mr. Lapointe.]

Mr. CALDWELL: I do not think the member for Saltcoats said the dry dock had never been used, but he did say there was dust on the machinery at the time he was there. I know the minister wants to be fair to the member for Saltcoats who is not here.

Mr. SALES: He is here.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I resented the statement at the time, I still resent it, and I know that when the hon. member for Saltcoats knows the facts he will withdraw it.

Mr. SALES: Mr. Chairman, I explained at the time that that was the information that had been given to me, and that I did not know whether it was correct or not. Navigation was then open, and there was a vessel in the private dock under repair. I was told that there never had been a ship in the big dry dock, and when giving that statement to the House I said that if my information was wrong I should not be held accountable for it.

Mr. LAPOINTE: There was a ship there, but my friend did not see it.

Mr. SALES: I accept the minister's figures. I do not want to be unfair to Quebec; on the contrary I want to be fair, and I am sure the Quebec members know that. Therefore, the minister need not labour the point.

Mr. LAPOINTE: But so many misstatements were made the other night—

Mr. SALES: On misinformation.

Mr. LAPOINTE:—that I could not understand the reason, for I do not think we deserve to be so treated by our friends.

Mr. HOEY: You must have poor officials down there.

Mr. LAPOINTE: As I say, I have here figures from the Department of Public Works, and you can see that big ships, such as the *Melita* and the *Minnedosa*—

Mr. SALES: I accept your statement, sir.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is all right, and I thank the hon. member for it. Now, my friends from Brandon (Mr. Forke) and from Assiniboia (Mr. Gould) referred to Mr. J. G. Scott. They have great faith in him, and I share their confidence. They said that Mr. Scott, although he advocated a reduction in the rates, never spoke about larger facilities being needed in the port of Quebec. Well, I knew Mr. Scott did say in his report that larger facilities were needed and were a necessary part of the scheme. He has sent me a copy of the letter he addressed to my friend