

long settled—it was settled by united empire loyalists 125 years ago—having no means of communication whatever, except that about twenty-five days in the year they have steamboat communication. In fact the conditions for steamboating have now become so obsolete that I understand the steamer is taken off this year. Possibly even dredging could not make the river navigable all summer, but the department I believe could dredge out a channel and it would be a great boon to the people in that part of New Brunswick.

Mr. WILMOT. How many dredges are employed on the St. John river?

Mr. FISHER. There is one employed there all the time and sometimes another.

Mr. WILMOT. Under whose direction?

Mr. FISHER. The department here directs where they shall do their work.

Mr. WILMOT. There is great necessity at different points on the lower St. John for the river being dredged. There are some points notably at Oromocto where there are serious obstructions. The traffic between Fredericton and St. John is large in the summer and there is a great deal of difficulty when the water is at low ebb in getting freight over the shoals. For years nothing has been done in dredging and I would urge the necessity of having some dredging done.

Mr. FISHER. That work is done out of a general vote for dredging in the maritime provinces, and has been done by government dredges. My hon. friend is mistaken in saying that there is no work being done on the St. John river. Between Fredericton and St. John there is a dredge working regularly and sometimes two, but I will see what can be done about it.

River St. John—wharfs in tidal waters—contribution to local government, \$5,000.

Mr. FISHER. This is a regular vote, that is done every year.

Mr. WILMOT. I do not understand the policy of the provincial government and the Dominion government in combining to build these wharfs. That is a policy that does not apply in any other part of the Dominion.

Mr. FISHER. I am told that this system was established a good many years ago when the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) was Minister of Marine, and it has been carried on ever since under a sort of arrangement with the provincial government.

Mr. WILMOT. I cannot see the advantage of it, and should think it would cause more or less confusion in construction work.

Mr. FISHER. These are small wharfs cheaply built and the work is carried on

Mr. CARVELL.

by the provincial government. We contribute an equal amount up to \$5,000 each year. Some years it runs fully up to the \$5,000 and others not quite. That system has been carried on for a good many years; I would not care to say that it is the very best but I suppose it really has secured the economical construction of a lot of small wharfs.

Mr. WILMOT. That system is not carried out in any other province than New Brunswick.

Mr. FISHER. Not in a general way, sometimes individual cases are.

St. Andrews—dredging, \$5,000.

Mr. GANONG. Is it figured that this will finish the dredging of the bar at St. Andrews?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, it was partly done last summer and is to be continued this year.

Mr. GANONG. That is a very desirable work and will save a lot of delay in handling traffic. There is another item to which I would like to call attention while you have a dredge in Charlotte, and it is of the utmost importance that this should be looked after. The most prosperous fishing village in that county, where we do a fishing business of \$1,500,000 a year, is Seal cove, Grand Manan. There has never been any dredging at the mouth of the little cove where the fishermen draw up their boats, and during the last few years a sea wall of sand has been thrown up which interferes with their getting into the harbour. If it is possible at all for the minister to send that dredge to Grand Manan to remove a portion of this sea wall and give them a free passage into the only place of protection they have there for their boats, he would be doing a great service to the community. A few years ago the Public Works Department considered the possibility of building a pier to protect this portion of the harbour; but I think they decided the location was such, it would be very expensive indeed to put a pier there which would stand, owing to the exposed location. But if this dredging could be done, I am satisfied that great good would result.

Mr. FISHER. Would the dredging alone, without protection work, be of much benefit?

Mr. GANONG. They never had any dredging done there and that accumulation of sand has been taking place for the last fifty years. It is the opinion of the people in that locality that if this passage were open again you would probably not require dredging again there for another fifty years.

Mr. WILMOT. With reference to the dredging at St. John one of the officials of the Department of Public Works told me