

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It is the cost of making a new floor. That is not an ordinary repair.

Telegraph Lines..... \$20,600
Land line on north shore of St. Lawrence—To improve roadway, repair line and increase operating facilities generally, between Godbout and Pointe aux Esquimaux \$1,000

Mr. BERGERON. How is that work being done ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. By contract. The contractor is Mr. De Courval.

Mr. BERGERON. Is that an old contract ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The contract has been going on for the last two years and has been held by the same man.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON. I would like to know whether these lines are used exclusively by the Government or whether they are used by the public telegraph companies ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. They are used by us and by every one who wishes to use them. All our lines are open to the public.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON. For instance, there is an item here for \$15,000 for one line. Does the Government pay for this line without getting a revenue from the telegraph companies that use it ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It is not used by the telegraph companies but by the public in a general way.

Mr. HUGHES. Has the Minister any returns of what the receipts are ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes, we have these returns, carefully prepared by the superintendent.

Mr. BERGERON. On this land line on the north shore of the St. Lawrence—extension from Point aux Esquimaux eastward, for which \$15,000 is asked—how far does the Government intend to build eastward ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We are on the route to Belle Isle. We have 290 miles more to build.

Mr. FOSTER. How much a mile does it cost ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It costs \$105 a mile and we supply the wire.

Mr. BERGERON. Who pays the operators ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We do.

Mr. BERGERON. What is the revenue generally ? /

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The revenue is very small. The line is specially built in the interests of navigation and trade. Still we are getting more revenue every year.

Mr. FOSTER. Does it pay the expenses of operation ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No, that is one of the questions into which I will inquire during the recess.

Telegraph Lines, British Columbia—To provide for an alternative line connecting Cape Beale and Carmenah with Victoria by extending the French Creek-Alberni line southwardly to the southwest coast of Vancouver Island..... \$4,600

Mr. HUGHES. Is the Government taking any steps about a telegraph line into the Yukon country ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I do not think we have made much progress in that matter yet.

Mr. HUGHES. I am aware of that. I was asking what was proposed ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am really not ready to give the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hughes) an answer yet. So far, we have not done anything.

Mr. GANONG. I want to call the attention of the Minister to some matters down in the county of Charlotte in connection with telegraph and telephone lines. I made some suggestions a short time since in regard to carrying out some improvements. One of them was the advisability of making a connection between Head Harbour light on one end of the island of Campobello and Welsh Pool, which has already connection with the mainland. Down among these islands, as hon. gentlemen are perfectly aware who know anything of the fishing industries, there are very few teams, in fact the roads are not always in the best condition, and the fishermen have to depend for communication principally upon their boats. In that county it is difficult to obtain fast communication, at least, on account of the very rapid tides around the coast, as well as the difficulty they occasionally have with fogs. It would seem that if it is essential to have a light at Head Harbour, it is quite as essential to have some communication between the Head Harbour light and some point where they might receive assistance. There is a great amount of tonnage going through this passage, the steamers between St. John and the ports of Portland and Boston all pass this point, some of the steamers two or three times a day. The total expenditure, as I understand it, is estimated only at \$880, or an equivalent to \$22 a year for interest. This connection would also give a very desirable communication between the large fishing village of Wilson's Beach and Welsh Pool. At the same time, no less important, I can assure the Minister, is the