

will then be required. For instance, from a place called Sacré-Coeur, which I forgot to mention a few minutes ago, about twelve miles north of Tadoussac, I received a communication in regard to some necessary work there. I wrote to the minister in February and he replied that he would put it on the program for the next fiscal year. This is a necessary work. Some people at Havre St. Pierre have communicated with me, and people on the other side have also sent communications as to necessary work there. This is a most important point on the north shore of the river St. Lawrence, and the people need proper means of communication there. The government ought to see that these works are done as expeditiously as possible.

I should also like to get from the minister some information regarding what I said a month or so ago about some works that were carried on at Tadoussac. I remember at that time I read to the house a letter regarding certain complaints that were made. I have been told that since then the government has sent some of its officials to investigate and find out if the facts that I have reported are exactly as they have been presented to me. At that time the complaint was made and submitted to me on good authority that some of the timber which had been purchased there was purchased at a high figure and that only very few people had profited by its sale. Has the minister received a report from the department?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Again I can only say that the work to which my hon. friend refers involves a rather heavy expenditure, the estimated cost being \$125,000. I think he will agree with me that that is a pretty large undertaking in these times.

Mr. CASGRAIN: What place is that?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Some representations have been made recently that we might get along temporarily with a small expenditure just to put the structure into a condition that would prevent further decay, and we are having an investigation made.

Mr. CASGRAIN: What place is that?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Havre St. Pierre.

Mr. CASGRAIN: As regards what I have just mentioned about the investigation that was made at Tadoussac, has the minister received the information? I am told that the investigation was conducted by Mr. Gobeil, an official of his department.

[Mr., Casgrain.]

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes, he made an investigation and I have the report. I could send a copy of it to my hon. friend.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I should be glad to have it.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I rather thought one had been sent to him.

Mr. CASGRAIN: No.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: Is it the intention of the department to call for tenders for repairs at the Rimouski wharf?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It is work which apparently can be properly done by contract, and the amount is such as to render necessary the calling for tenders. It is the intention to invite tenders.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The minister has overlooked the point I was endeavouring to make. What he said with regard to the years from 1922 to 1930 is perhaps the best evidence one could have of the impropriety of the course that is being followed at the present time. During the years to which he referred, particularly the years in which there was an expenditure of over \$20,000,000, that is to say from 1926 on, in every one of those years the government of the day showed a surplus. That illustrates better than anything else the difference between that regime and the present one. At that time real works were being undertaken. After the expenditure of the moneys in those years the government was able to show a substantial surplus annually. But let me impress upon the minister and the government that to-day there is a very critical condition in Canada. We are running behind, not a matter of a few millions a year, but in the last few years amounts almost equalling the total of the public debt before the war. That is the condition that faces us at the present time. I do not think the government realizes how important it is to pay as little attention as possible to the appeals that come from the various ridings. I know my hon. friend from Rimouski, and I realize that he is diligent in looking after the interests of his riding, and I am not criticizing him on that score. Personally, however, I prefer to take the suggestion of the hon. member for Quebec South. This house has reached the stage where it must consider whether or not we are going to go on spending money irrespective entirely of whether we have the money or have any means of obtaining it. The country is in too serious a condition to go on spending money by increasing an expenditure from \$100,000 to \$400,000, as the minister has done in the last few years in connection with this one item.