

low tide cannot reach the wharf. I think it was part of their contract that they would pay one-third of the cost provided the channel was kept dredged to a uniform depth of 17 feet.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The latest information we have is from the manager. He was in the office recently and said that he is quite satisfied with the conditions there.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: Then, so am I.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): There is no reason why any further dredging should be done before they are paid.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: The Clark Shipping Company intends to operate a very large boat called the North Shore, and she will call at Rimouski. This boat can hardly reach the wharf at low tide. The dredging to be done does not amount to much. It is necessary in order to remove the hog's-backs that have formed there. Of course, the minister is aware of the representations from the chamber of commerce at Rimouski, the Clark Shipping Company and Price Bros., asking for a combined vote to dredge the larger channel 400 feet and at the same time the Rimouski river. Of course I understand that for reasons of economy the minister has not been able to give favourable consideration to the request, but I hope it will not be lost sight of.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It will be carefully studied.

Mr. POULIOT: I can promise the minister that I will never criticize him for granting requests for appropriations for repairs and improvements to wharves in my constituency. May I tell him that the people on the island of Notre Dame de l'Île have to come to the south shore by water? I understand a contract has been awarded for an extension of the local wharf. I hope the work will be done this year. There are other works required at Ile Verte, at Trois Pistoles, Tobin, Cacouna, Rivière du Loup, Notre Dame du Portage along the St. Lawrence, and also at Cabano, Squatteck, St. Juste du Lac and Notre Dame du Lac on lake Temiscouata. The settlers in that district have frequent occasion to travel by water, and everything that the department does to improve the local wharf facilities will have my hearty approval.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I can assure my hon. friend that it is the intention to carry out all the works in his constituency in respect to which there are votes.

Mr. HANBURY: In view of the great decrease in the estimates, does the minister contemplate any reduction in his engineering staff?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The answer is no, for the following reasons. The engineering staff is engaged not only in the supervision of works that are actually being carried on but perhaps the greater part of their time is devoted to investigating the many requests for public works that come from members, which they suggest are necessary in the constituencies. The staff has been undermanned rather than overmanned. I think during the present year we will be able to check up most of the requests. I know the staff will be fully employed, and possibly we will be in better shape at the end of this year to deal with the program for next year.

Mr. McGIBBON: After listening to the energetic member for Temiscouata for almost days and nights advertising his constituency, I think it is my duty to remind him and some other hon. gentlemen opposite that many of us sat to the left of the Speaker for nearly ten years when the Liberal government was in power and got practically nothing.

An hon. MEMBER: You are getting nothing this year.

Mr. McGIBBON: We are quite willing to take nothing this year in view of the conditions prevailing throughout the country. But hon. gentlemen opposite seem to think they should have their hands in the till whether they are in power or in opposition. The riding which I have the honour to represent, and which is an important one from the revenue standpoint, has been literally starved for about ten years. We think it is time that members on this side of the house should have some of the requirements of their constituencies considered. We are not pressing for appropriations this year, but we cannot understand the minds of some hon. gentlemen opposite. After having fed so freely from the public estimates for the last ten years they are still hungry, notwithstanding the serious condition of the public treasury. Now, sir, I want to impress upon the minister that there are other parts of the Dominion of Canada whose wants have been brought to the attention of his department not once but for the last ten years. I think when the time comes, when we can loosen the strings of the treasury, his first consideration should be those constituencies which have received nothing for some years past.

Mr. HANBURY: Conservative constituencies?

Mr. McGIBBON: Yes, Conservative constituencies. I am one of those who believe