

tom of the canal for the crib seats, resulting in a large increase in the estimated quantities of excavation, cribwork, stone filling in cribwork and earth filling behind cribwork.

Briefly the situation is this: The boring indicated that rock did not exist; consequently deeper foundations had to be created in cement clay formations.

Item agreed to.

Trent canal — improvements — additional amount required, \$51,900.

Mr. McGIBBON: Is this canal completed? It has been on the way for about one hundred and twenty-five years, it is nearly completed, and if the government is ever going to get revenue from it, it can only be done by completing the work.

Mr. DUNNING: The government does not intend to complete the canal. So far as revenue is concerned, I think it can be said that all the revenue the government can get from that canal is now being received, the only revenue receivable being rentals from power supplied to individuals or to communities. We are now, I think, in receipt of the maximum amount of power rentals which we could receive, even if the canal were completed, and the government has no intention of completing it.

Mr. McGIBBON: I point out to the minister that the only practical use to which this canal could be put—although I would not advocate it—would be the encouragement of the tourist traffic. At the present time it is practically of no use.

Mr. DUNNING: Tourists make a great deal of use of that canal and can make use of it although it is not completed over the height of land.

Mr. COOTE: What particular improvements are necessary in the canal to require an expenditure of \$50,000?

Mr. PECK: In Peterborough and the neighbouring district there is a strong feeling that the canal should be completed. The canal itself connects the Georgian bay with lake Ontario. Although the canal is in all two hundred and forty miles in length the amount required for actual canal purposes is about thirty miles. It has been constructed from lake Ontario to lake Simcoe, to the Severn river, and all that is necessary now to give complete communication is to construct a small section on the Severn river. I think there are two rapids. When that portion is completed, there will be a complete passage-way for boats of six or seven feet draught from the Georgian bay to lake Ontario. There

[Mr. Dunning.]

is a certain amount of power to be generated still on the canal, and it is not, it seems to me, fitting, after so much money has been spent upon the canal, that this remaining section should not be completed. As I say, the people in my district are very much impressed with the importance of the work, and arrangements are being made for deputations to Ottawa to wait upon the government, and urge the completion of the work. I trust what has been said by the Minister of Railways and Canals will not prejudice their application.

Mr. DUNNING: I should be glad to receive any deputation on any subject whatever. Perhaps my hon. friends will permit me to bring down further information upon the whole matter in connection with the main estimates.

With reference to the supplementary estimate to which the remarks of my hon. friend from Macleod (Mr. Coote) have reference, I do not expect to spend it; none of it is spent yet, and inasmuch as the authority will expire on the 31st March I do not expect that the money will be spent. It will have to be provided for in the main estimates, because it has to do with the creation of power. Certain of our works along the canal are going to pieces and require to be replaced. They happen to be works of a character that produce revenue in the form of power, and consequently we desire to keep them in good shape, in order that we may receive the rental from them.

Item agreed to.

To provide for compassionate allowance to the mother of Francis S. King, who was accidentally killed while employed on the work of St. Lawrence river investigations, \$2,000.

Mr. ADSHEAD: I do not know whether this is all the allowance the mother will have to depend upon. The item says "compassionate allowance." I presume that she will have some other means on which to subsist, and that she will not be compelled to live on this amount. If, however, this is her sole means of support, would it not be better to give her an allowance of \$100 a month to the end of her life, so that she would be able to exist. I observe that in the next item we are voting \$4,000 to improve the acoustics of the House of Commons, which is quite necessary, but I think it is equally important that the mother of the man who was killed in the service of the government should receive an adequate allowance. I suggest that parliament should give the mother \$100 or \$125 a month to the end of her life.