

the widening of the straight parts of the channel to a minimum width of 450 feet and the curves to 600 and 750 feet, and at Lake St. Peter to 800 feet. This also included work below Quebec. Until 1906, no work had been done below Quebec.

Mr. BLAIN. Do the items that are now under construction and investigation in the Privileges and Elections Committee come under this vote?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes.

Mr. BLAIN. Then I think we should leave this open until that committee reports.

Mr. BRODEUR. The investigation has nothing to do with the deepening of the St. Lawrence channel. I might make my statement with regard to the work and then allow the item to stand.

Mr. BLAIN. I think it is a rule of the House that an item under discussion in the committee cannot be discussed here. I would ask for the Chairman's ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I know of nothing that would prevent the item being discussed. There is a rule which would prevent a discussion here of the matter still before the Privileges and Elections Committee.

Mr. BLAIN. The money for the work being investigated in that committee will be paid under this item, and therefore I think it is a direct violation of the rule.

Mr. BRODEUR. There is in connection with this item a great question of policy, whether this committee would accept the idea of deepening the channel to 35 feet. We might discuss that and then allow the vote to stand until the committee reports.

Mr. DANIEL. I think it would be advisable to go to some other item just now. None of the members from Montreal are here and others interested are absent. Then there is great force in the contention of the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Blain). There has been evidence that work was done on Mr. Lanctot's house and on other buildings in the city of Sorel with which the government have nothing whatever to do. It is quite a large question in itself.

Mr. BRODEUR. The engineer who is in charge of this work came to Ottawa for the purpose of discussing this great question of the increase of the depth of the St. Lawrence, and it would be a pity to have that question set aside to-night.

Mr. CROSBY. I do not think there can be two minds on the deepening of the St. Lawrence, and therefore I think we may fairly go from this to other items of the minister's estimates. No one can hesitate about making the St. Lawrence channel, the

Mr. BRODEUR.

great summer highway waterway of Canada, as deep as it can be made. I think the committee take this Sorel matter into consideration to-morrow.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Crosby) has hit the nail on the head. There are no two opinions about the deepening of the St. Lawrence ship channel; we are all in favour of that, only we think it is costing too much owing to the reckless way in which the minister does the work. I find at O-134 he gave an order to the Lymburner Company, Montreal, for brass condenser ferrules, \$25; steel ranges, three at \$35 each; Chapleau range, \$100; parts of John Bull steel range, \$38.85, and so on. Two years ago the same Lymburner was asked to supply belting for the custom house, Montreal, and he charged \$800 odd, and before the Public Accounts Committee the manufacturers of the belting showed if the Minister of Public Works had applied to them they would supply it for \$200, and Lymburner had a rake-off of \$600 on \$800 worth of goods. And the Department of Public Works, in face of that, continued to deal with Lymburner. Then, the Minister of Public Works goes to his friends, McAvity & Sons, of St. John, N.B., and buys \$4,000 worth of supplies for the Montreal ship channel, and they have to pay freight on it and send it up to Montreal. The whole thing wants investigating from top to bottom, and we must have an explanation why the government continues to deal with Lymburner who, as was proven before the Public Accounts Committee made a clean steal of \$600 on \$800 worth of a purchase.

Mr. STANFIELD. Lymburner is up before the committee this year.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). Yes, and the government have gone to work and appointed him purchasing agent or inspector of buildings, or something like that in Montreal. Unless the minister promises he will not purchase from this man we should not let these items go through. The Minister of Public Works stated plainly he would have this matter inquired into, and make a report, but he never did so, and then he appointed Lymburner one of his officials in Montreal, and he purchases from the firm of Lymburner & Co., in which he says he has an interest. Why does not the Minister of Public Works, instead of buying from his political friends, McAvity & Sons of St. John, N.B., go to his friend Mr. Lewis of Montreal who, the hon. member for Grenville said, was their political agent in Montreal, and handled the party funds. The minister did not deny that statement.

Mr. BRODEUR. Certainly, I deny it most emphatically.