

THE ST. JOHN RIVER WHARVES AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THEM

Amount Placed in Estimates Totally Inadequate to Erect the Numerous Structures Promised by Mr. Pugsley Previous to the Elections and For Many of Which Tenders Were Called--The Discussion in Parliament on the Subject and the Minister's Policy Proclaimed--Sunbury and Queens Most Affected,

The following is the Hansard report of the discussion in committee of supply of the House of Commons last Thursday night on the item "River St. John, including tributaries, \$6,000."

Mr. Daniel--Will the Minister state what he intends to do with this vote?

Mr. Pugsley--This is a vote for blasting rocks, building wing dams and otherwise facilitating navigation of the river. I am inclined to think that we will expend a sum of money this year in improving Grand Falls. There are difficulties in the way of navigation so far as floating lumber is concerned. I think a few thousand dollars could be expended there with great advantage--right at the falls and a little above.

River St. John and tributaries--construction of wharves in tidal waters, \$29,000.

Mr. Daniel--I would like the Minister to state where he is going to build these wharves.

Mr. Pugsley--I could not state exactly, but we have applications for quite a number of wharves, both in the counties of Queens and Sunbury, and more particularly in the county of Kings. There is one at Ormococt, another at Scotchtown, and another I think at Burton. There are quite a number which are urgently required in the public interest. I will get a list later if the hon. gentleman wishes.

Mr. Daniel--The Minister stated some time ago that many public works had been proposed, but had to be abandoned, but he did not intend to abandon those which came under one of three categories, and one of those categories was cases where tenders had been called for. Now, I wish to remind the Minister that tenders were called for no less than nine wharves in the county of Queens and Sunbury. I have here a clipping from the Daily Telegraph, of St. John, dated October 13, 1908, which reads thus:

Nine new wharves in Queens and Sunbury--On representation of Colonel McLean, Minister of Public Works calls for tenders--List of places where wharves will be built--The Department of Public Works, Ottawa, as will be seen by reference to another column, are calling for tenders for nine new wharves in Queens-Sunbury. These will prove of great benefit to the residents of the localities and have been procured--They had already been procured--through the representations of Colonel H. McLean, the Liberal candidate in Queens-Sunbury, to Hon. Mr. Pugsley, Minister of Public Works.

This was dated 13th October, little less than a fortnight before the election.

The places where the new wharves will be located are as follows:

- The Range, Parish of Waterborough, Queens county, N. B.
- Barton, parish of Barton, Sunbury county, N. B.
- Newcastle, parish of Canning, Queens county, N. B.
- Barker's parish of Sheffield, Sunbury county, N. B.
- McAllister's parish of Chipman, Queens county, N. B.
- Young's Cove, parish of Waterborough, Queens county, N. B.
- Ironbound Cove, parish of Waterborough, Queens county, N. B.
- Scotchtown, parish of Canning, Queens county, N. B.
- Lower Jemseg, parish of Cambridge, Queens county, N. B.

Tenders for these wharves will close on Nov. 12.

As tenders had been called for in respect to all these wharves, I think they should be included in the estimate of work to be done this year--I have here a copy of the advertisement:

Tenders for wharves on St. John river and Grand Lake, N. B. Then it gives the nine places I have just read. That advertisement is signed by "Nap. Tessier, Secretary."

Mr. Pugsley--Does my hon. friend say that he approves of my going ahead with these wharves?

Mr. Daniel--Certainly, I do.

Mr. Pugsley--Well, I intend to do so.

Mr. Daniel--Then why are they not included in the estimate?

Mr. Pugsley--I have got a vote of \$20,000, \$5,000 more than last year.

Mr. Daniel--Will that build nine wharves?

Mr. Pugsley--It should.

Mr. Daniel--Is my hon. friend the member for Sunbury and Queens (Mr. H. H. McLean) satisfied with that?

Mr. H. H. McLean--\$20,000 is pretty good.

Mr. Daniel--I am speaking on behalf of the people of Queens and Sunbury, who, I was afraid, had been deluded by these promises made previous to the election. I call the attention of the Minister to the fact that these promises have been made, and naturally the people expect him to carry them out.

Col. H. H. McLean--I am delighted that my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Daniel) is giving me his assistance in obtaining these necessary public works. I am also highly pleased to hear him state this evening that he thoroughly approves of the policy adopted by the Minister of Public Works in erecting these wharves, because I understand he joins with me in believing that these wharves are absolutely necessary for the proper

navigation of the river St. John. But I want to remind my hon. friend that he has changed his opinion this session from the opinion he held last session. I want to remind him that when the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) stated on the floor of this House that it was a vicious principle to erect at the public expense wharves in rivers or lakes, and that the public money should only be expended on wharves and harbors on the sea coast, my hon. friend heard that statement and he did not dispute it.

Mr. Daniel--I never heard the hon. member for North Toronto make any such statement, either in this House or out of it.

Mr. H. H. McLean--I have an extract to prove what I say, and if my hon. friend wishes will give it to him, because I used that extract in speeches in the county of Queens and Sunbury and I used it on nomination day. The statement cannot possibly be denied. As regards the statement made by my hon. friend that he was not present when the hon. member for North Toronto made that statement--Mr. Crosby--Mr. Chairman, is this in order? Are we here for the purpose of doing business?

Some hon. members--Order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker--If the hon. gentleman rises to a point of order I must, of course, ascertain what it is.

Mr. Crosby--The point of order is that the hon. member for Sunbury and Queens is not discussing the question under consideration. Surely you know that.

Some hon. members--Order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker--I think the hon. member for Sunbury and Queens is in order and may continue his speech.

Mr. Crosby--I only want the ruling of the chair.

Some hon. members--Order.

Mr. Crosby--I will wait until he gives it so that we will know what he wants.

Mr. Deputy Speaker--The hon. gentleman must not comment on the ruling of the chair. He must withdraw such observations.

Mr. Crosby--I simply say that if that is your ruling we will know it in future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker--I understood the hon. gentleman to go farther than that. If he does not, his remark is not out of order.

Mr. H. H. McLean--I was only endeavoring to answer the remarks made by the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Daniel). I am glad to know that he thoroughly approves of the principle laid down by this Government and that is that every necessary public work, every necessary wharf in tidal waters and in navigable waters, will be constructed at the expense of the Government of Canada. I was also delighted to know that this principle meets with his approval and, of course, meets with the approval of all hon. gentlemen of the opposition. I want also to call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that this principle has been opposed in this House by hon. gentlemen on the opposition side. It has been opposed by the hon. member for North Toronto and by other speakers on his side. I also desire to say that we give credit to the Minister of Public Works for inaugurating that principle and carrying it forward.

Mr. Daniel--I am very pleased to hear the remarks of my hon. friend. Although he was a little inexact in some of his statements I quite exonerate him from any intention of being wilfully inexact. But I would like him and the members of this House to understand that in so far as I am concerned I am entirely in accord with any Government that provides proper means for transportation and the carrying on of the business of this country whether it is on the sea coast or on the inland lakes and rivers. I never lifted my voice against the expenditure of money for any such laudable purpose and I do not propose to do so. I shall not do so for one reason, that, in the city, that I come from, we are looking for some expenditure for purposes connected with the great transportation interests of this country. I would not feel like advocating expenditures for that purpose in my own constituency if I were not willing to advocate them in the constituencies of other hon. gentlemen whether on this side of the House or not. While my hon. friend from Queens and Sunbury would like to have imparted a little irony or sarcasm into his remarks I do not think they apply in any degree whatever to the member for the city of St. John.

Mr. Crosby--Has the department made an estimate of the cost of these nine wharves in Queens and Sunbury before calling for tenders.

Mr. Pugsley--The department prepared plans and called for tenders, which we thought would be the best guide as to what these wharves should cost, but when the tenders came in, with respect to several of them, we thought that the price was too high and we also thought that the plans might be simplified so as to reduce the cost very materially. My own view, based on an experience of a good many years in connection with the building of wharves on the St. John river when I was a member of the Provincial Government is that we ought to get suitable wharves on the St. John river at a cost of from \$1,200 to \$3,000. We are now having new plans prepared with the view of get-

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ting a cheaper wharf, one which will answer all practical purposes just as well and we hope to get the cost of the construction of these wharves down to from \$1,200 to \$3,000, according to the length of the wharf, the depth of the water and the difficulty in making the approaches to the wharves.

Mr. Crockett--What were the amounts of the tender that were received?

Mr. Pugsley--They ranged between different amounts. Some were as high as \$7,000.

Mr. Crockett--On the plans that had been drawn?

Mr. Pugsley--Yes, that had been drawn by the engineers at St. John. We thought the cost was greater than suitable wharves should cost and we gave directions to reduce and simplify the plans.

Mr. Crockett--After the elections were over the plans were simplified.

Mr. Daniel--The Minister did not state whether he intended to build these wharves or not.

Mr. Pugsley--That is the object of the vote.

Mr. Daniel--And it is expected to build them?

Mr. Pugsley--Yes.

Mr. Crockett--Is the work to be done on all these wharves during the present year?

Mr. Pugsley--We hope to be able to proceed with the work on all of them as soon as we can get the plans and have the tenders called for.

Mr. Sproule--Are you buying wharves from the local Government or what?

Mr. Pugsley--I would like, with the consent of the committee, to strike out the words "River St. John," because for some reason or other, the contribution to be made by the plans prepared with the view of get-

(Continued on page 6.)

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For fares and other info apply to D. B. LINDSAY, G. G. GRUNDY, General Manager, Superintendent, Rivier du Loup, P. Q. F. B. EDGECOMBE, Ticket Agent, Fredericton, N. B.

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