

Mr. FISHER. My hon. friend is too suspicious.

Mr. BERGERON. They bought wood from a number of people in amounts varying from \$60 to \$627. If the people of the country knew all the details of this, what would they say?

Mr. FISHER. I hope they will know them.

Mr. BERGERON. On the eve of an election, in the county of Rimouski where an immense amount of money was being spent this was done. Is that the only way in which the government could secure an expression of the confidence of the people by buying wood from every Tom, Dick and Harry during election time?

Mr. FISHER. I am sorry my hon. friend misplaced his confidence. I think that is a proof that the government is doing what is in the interest of the people; we go direct and buy from the producer leaving out the middle men.

Mr. BERGERON. That is not what the Department of Railways do.

Mr. FISHER. The department went straight to these habitants and bought from them direct instead of employing middlemen and thus the government saved the profits of the middlemen.

Mr. BERGERON. Three years before the work is done and the wood is lying there probably being eaten by worms to-day.

Mr. FISHER. We were buying it when we had the money to do the work and were ready to go on without waiting.

Mr. BERGERON. What is to be the use of that breakwater?

Mr. FISHER. For ships to go to.

Mr. BERGERON. That was not the reason that was given before. Mr. Brodeur said last year that it was for the fishermen and the general trade, and that vessels such as the 'Campana' could go to it. Is that to be useful for a vessel like the Campana?

Mr. FISHER. I do not know whether the 'Campana' can get in there or not. I do not think that the 'Campana' draws 18 feet 3 inches.

Mr. BERGERON. Mr. Brodeur said the depth would be between 12 and 17 feet.

Mr. FISHER. The statement here is 18 feet 3 inches above low water.

Grosse Isle, Quarantine station—wharf extension, \$24,000.

Mr. AMES. How many tenders were received, who tendered, what is the price of each tender, and who got the contract?

Mr. FISHER. Heney & Smith, of Ottawa. There are nine tenders but I have not a list of them here.

Mr. BERGERON. Another Ottawa firm?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, the tenders range from \$22,467 up to \$31,900.

Mr. AMES. The reason I asked was in order to demonstrate the same point as was made by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) that it is an Ottawa contractor who gets the contract.

Mr. AMES. How soon will the work be finished?

Mr. FISHER. Next fall.

Mr. AMES. No one knows better than the minister how important it is to have the work finished as soon as possible. We have voted this money twice and failed to complete it.

Mr. FISHER. I understand that perfectly.

Lake St. John wharfs—repairs, &c., \$3,500.

Mr. J. D. REID. What is this for?

Mr. FISHER. This is a general vote put in every year for repairs.

Mr. J. D. REID. I see in these repairs accounts such as these: Office Specialty Manufacturing Company, office and cabinet, \$124.75; office chair, \$13, and other similar items which cannot have anything to do with repairs to wharfs.

Mr. FISHER. Those are to fit the office of the engineer in charge of the work.

Mr. J. D. REID. But the year before we find the same thing. How is it these items come in every year?

Mr. FISHER. There was an increase in the staff and we had to fit the office accordingly.

Mr. J. D. REID. Here is an item for photographs, \$26.50.

Mr. FISHER. These are photographs of the wharfs to see the condition of the work.

Mr. J. D. REID. And electrical fixtures, \$31.

Mr. FISHER. Those are in the office of the superintendent of work.

Mr. J. D. REID. Are these done every year?

Mr. FISHER. No, only when necessary.

Mr. J. D. REID. How many of these offices are there?

Mr. FISHER. This is not an office on the wharf, but the office of the engineer in charge of all these wharfs. It is in the town of Chicoutimi.

Mr. J. D. REID. He has his office all carpeted.

Mr. FISHER. Very likely