

*Supply—Harbours and Rivers*

Mr. KING (Kootenay): \$5,000.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The actual amount voted? That was clever bookkeeping.

Item agreed to.

Harbours and rivers generally, \$30,000.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What was spent on that last year?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): This amount is required to cover travelling expenses telegrams, printing, stationary, instruments, and so forth, which cannot conveniently be charged against any one in particular of the general appropriations for construction, improvements, or repairs in each province.

The chief engineer asks for an allotment of \$15,000 out of this appropriation to pay expenses of staff in making test borings throughout the Dominion. He states that \$2,000 will also be required in connection with the laboratory for testing materials. We spent last year \$29,990.72.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: If I have been able to follow my hon. friend, it does not look right to charge these things to a vote for harbours and rivers at all. The items he has mentioned have more to do with the cost of the service, have they not? No construction work is being done at all; it is simply for salaries, telegrams, and so forth. I think telegrams was the first item read; it may not be the main item, but it seems hardly fair to load all this on to a vote for harbours and rivers.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): It is an expenditure made in connection with harbours and rivers throughout Canada for administration purposes. Last year we spent \$29,990.72, which was made up as follows:

Generally.. . . .	\$ 1,364 72
Cement testing laboratory.. . . .	1,421 06
Test boring.. . . .	12,400 07
Freight and express.. . . .	2,836 50
Photographic supplies.. . . .	2,126 42
Telegrams.. . . .	4,497 08
Printing and stationery.. . . .	5,312 37
Guarantee bonds.. . . .	32 50
	\$29,990 72

Item agreed to.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Mr. Chairman, before taking up the next vote. When Public Works estimates for the harbour works in the

province of Quebec were under discussion in committee last Friday I promised to bring down a copy of the judgment of the Exchequer court dealing with the expropriation of the wharf at St. Petronille and to give the committee the amount offered by the government.

This wharf and property of 37,363 square feet was the property of La Cie Maritime de Levis. The government offered them the sum of \$24,394.65, which was the estimated value made up by the district engineer, taking into consideration the need for considerable repairs. The company, however, refused to sell the property at this price claiming \$70,000, and as it was necessary, in the public interest, to take over the wharf and repair same, which the company had refused to do, a notice of expropriation was filed November 20, 1923. The judgment which I have here was rendered by Mr. Justice Audette on May 23, 1924, fixing the amount of compensation at the sum of \$29,604.45, with interest at 5 per cent from November 20, 1923. It is to be noted from this judgment that no consideration was allowed for interference or loss of business in view of the fact that the business of the company was not interfered with in any way.

The above mentioned company, however, entered an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada from this judgment, but I have here a statement dated April 28, 1925, just received by this department, from the deputy registrar of the Exchequer Court of Canada, stating that this appeal was subsequently discontinued by the company. I do not suppose the committee would be interested in hearing the judgment of the Exchequer court, but I have it here. Then in regard to the vote for Three Rivers harbour, a question was asked as to the personnel of the commission. The commission was appointed by order in council of July 10, 1923, and consists of Robert F. Grant, president, Joseph L. Fortin, and Norman Labelle. These commissioners do not receive a salary, although according to section 5, subsection 4 of the act of June 30, 1923, they may be paid such remuneration out of revenues of the harbour as the Governor in Council may determine.

The receipts and disbursements of this commission for the past two years have been as follows: