

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It is not proposed to do any work in the way of dredging in Tracadie harbour this year.

Mr. VENIOT: I am sorry to hear that.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The only reason is that the appropriation will not permit. When the construction of the breastworks or breakwater referred to by my hon. friend was undertaken, it was realized that to make the work effective, dredging would have to follow. The breastworks had to be constructed first. The importance of the work to the fishermen is fully realized and I can only assure my hon. friend that when circumstances permit and when funds are available, we shall resume that work, but I do not hope to be able to do so this year.

Mr. McINTOSH: Before this item is carried, I should like to say something under item 120.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Go ahead.

Mr. McINTOSH: But I can say what I want to say under item 120, just as well under item 123. This item deals with harbours and rivers. I notice British Columbia is getting \$354,000 out of this vote for harbours and rivers; Quebec is getting \$789,000; Ontario is getting \$815,000. The maritimes, I notice, are getting over \$700,000. I was asking myself: Where do Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta come in? We have a great area of country and yet under item 120 we are given the paltry sum of \$15,000. Before I amplify that statement, might I ask the minister what this sum is for?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It is just as the item states, for the maintenance of existing services, no new works to be undertaken.

Mr. McINTOSH: In what provinces are these existing services?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The note I have is that this is required to provide for the maintenance and repair of existing harbour and river facilities in Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest territories. In former years this appropriation was used only for small repair work of \$1,000 and under, and special votes were taken for large repair works.

Mr. YOUNG: Does that include Churchill?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I do not think so.

Mr. McINTOSH: Has the minister before him a record in regard to a vote of \$4,000, either in 1929 or in 1930, for clearing the rapids between Meadow lake and the foot of the Grand rapids on the Beaver river?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): My officers inform me that we have no particulars on that matter here. I shall be glad to obtain the information and send it to my hon. friend.

Mr. McINTOSH: I understand a vote of \$4,000 was passed for that work, but I am not certain whether the work was ever done. May I say that Meadow Lake is a thriving village 125 miles north of North Battleford, and is in a very productive agricultural area. It ought therefore to be the point which would draw all northern trade 250 miles north from Churchill river down the Beaver river and along the Meadow river to Meadow lake. Between Meadow Lake and Grand Rapids this waterway is filled with rocks for miles so that navigation is impossible, and about four or five thousand dollars would render that river suitable for navigation. It would bring northern trade down to Meadow Lake and on to North Battleford. It is important that something should be done in that direction. We find here a large vote for Ontario, a large vote for Quebec, and an extremely large vote for the maritimes, but there is a paltry vote for the three prairie provinces. I am at a loss to understand why a small sum of \$4,000 should not be spent to clear the rocks out of this otherwise navigable stream.

The minister cannot really say that he has not the money, because the expenditures in the other four large areas of Canada which I have indicated prove conclusively that he has the money; and since he cannot plead a want of funds for this small undertaking I would impress upon him the importance of investigating the matter and doing something at once. I urge this matter upon the minister not only from the point of view of the importance of clearing that river in order to make it navigable but because there is a good deal of relief wanted in that area. Indeed, I have under my hand a telegram pointing out the need of relief there. The telegram says: "Much relief required in the Meadow Lake country." That means that these people are not getting relief from the Saskatchewan relief commission, and therefore the expenditure of a few thousand dollars on a public work of this kind would be well advised.

Although parts of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta may be called the prairies, the minister must remember that in the far north we have wonderful rivers and lakes, and transportation by water is quite important to the people living in that section, as well as to the people living in the middle parts of the