

*Supply—Transport*

**Mr. Chevrier:** Yes. The regulations were made, but not put into effect. They were sent to all the bodies who would be interested, including ship owners and operators on both coasts. Representations were thereafter made to departmental officials and to me with respect to those regulations. I am not in a position yet to say that there has been any finality; but there will be full opportunity for discussion.

**Mr. Green:** Would there be any objection to furnishing members with a copy of the proposed regulations?

**Mr. Chevrier:** I would have to look into it, but I would not think there would be.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** Mr. Chairman, may I refer to examinations of young men and old men who are applying for certificates to carry on their vocations on the water. I know of several cases where they have had difficulty because of the eye test given by officials of the Department of Transport.

I learned recently about a young man, forty-one years of age. I know this man well, and I know that he has been engaged on the water for twenty years. This man wished to obtain a certificate to engage in day work which would have involved his travelling four or five miles in each direction. On his eye test he was turned down.

That young man, his father or, if he were living, his grandfather, could go to the provincial government and obtain a permit to drive a car in traffic moving at 50, 60 or 70 miles an hour. Yet, when he wishes to travel on water at only eight or ten knots he is refused a certificate because of the failure of his eyesight. Perhaps many of the regulations might be enforced to a greater degree, but I believe the enforcement of this one should be given careful consideration. Young men who have spent their lives on the water, and who must have a certificate, should be given every consideration.

Item agreed to.

*Marine service—*

619. River St. Lawrence ship channel—contract dredging in the St. Lawrence river and Montreal harbour, including cost of administration—capital—further amount required, \$435,295.

**Mr. Fraser:** I should like to have further details on this item, because none are given. Does Montreal pay anything toward harbour costs?

**Mr. Chevrier:** No.

**Mr. Fraser:** It is not like Toronto in that respect.

**Mr. Chevrier:** In Toronto the board of harbour commissioners is a corporate body,

whereas in Montreal it is part of the national harbours. We vote money for the development of the harbour at Montreal, under the act.

**Mr. Fraser:** Does this amount of \$435,295 represent the complete contract price?

**Mr. Chevrier:** No.

**Mr. Fraser:** What was the full contract price?

**Mr. Chevrier:** The full contract price for last year was \$2,939,500.

**Mr. Fraser:** What is the name of the contracting firm?

**Mr. Chevrier:** Marine Industries Limited.

**Mr. Fraser:** Is that in rock or mud?

**Mr. Chevrier:** Both.

**Mr. Fraser:** In there it would be limestone.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Yes.

**Mr. Hatfield:** Does this represent all the dredging contracts on the St. Lawrence in the year 1949-50?

**Mr. Chevrier:** I am not competent to answer that, because it is a matter which would come within the control of the Minister of Public Works. So far as the Department of Transport is concerned, this is the only division of my department that deals with dredging.

Item agreed to.

*Marine service—*

620. To provide towards the acquisition and reconditioning of two vessels for Pacific ocean weather station "P" (estimated cost \$750,000)—capital, \$165,000.

**Mr. MacInnis:** This appears to be a new item, because there is no indication that it is a further amount required. Would the minister tell the committee from whom these vessels are to be acquired, where they will be stationed on the Pacific coast, and when the work will be completed? This is only a small part of the reconditioning expenses.

**Mr. Chevrier:** These vessels are being acquired from Marine Industries Limited at a cost of \$57,500 each. Speaking from memory only, their position will be approximately 500 miles north and west of Victoria.

**Mr. MacInnis:** How long before the ships will be ready for service?

**Mr. Chevrier:** It is expected they will be ready some time this year.

**Mr. Higgins:** Is there only the one ship in the Atlantic in connection with the joint operations with the United States?

**Mr. Chevrier:** Yes.