

the cost of construction. I would like to present that view to the minister, and I would like to know if the construction of a dry dock at Halifax for naval and commercial purposes has been considered as a matter of policy by the Government.

Mr. HAZEN: There is now a subsidized dry dock at Halifax which, of course, is the naval station on the Atlantic coast, and a very important point. That dock was built with aid from the Government of Canada, the British Government, the Government of Nova Scotia, and the city of Halifax. It has served a very useful purpose, and during the war has been extremely busy all the time. It is not, however, a dock of the first class. The first-class dock of to-day is 1,150 feet in length, and the standard fixed under this Bill is 125 feet width at the base. The Halifax dock is about 600 feet long. It is most desirable, in the interests of Canada and of the Empire, that there should be a large dry dock at an important naval station such as Halifax. That matter has been considered by the Government. I understand that my hon. friend suggests that the tendency of an Act such as this will be to induce promoters and speculators to embark upon enterprises of this sort. I do not think there is much danger of that occurring, judging from what has taken place in the past, because, as has been pointed out by the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley), no dry dock of the first class has been built under the provisions of the Dry Dock Act up to the present time, and I doubt whether, even with the changes being effected now, promoters, people not bona fide interested in the development of shipping, will be induced to go into enterprises of this sort, because the maintenance of a dock after construction involves large expenditures, and unless those who build such docks can see a fair prospect, after completing the dock and supplying the plant, of doing a considerable volume of business at a fair profit, it is most unlikely that they will put their money into such an enterprise.

Mr. PUGSLEY: There is no guarantee of principal.

Mr. HAZEN: No. All they get is this amount for a period of thirty-five years, and the amount is barely sufficient, if it is sufficient, to pay the interest on the full amount. Thus they must desire a considerable revenue from the operations of the dock. It is very desirable that, at Halifax on the east coast, and at some point on the

[Mr. A. K. Maclean.]

west coast, Esquimalt or Vancouver, there should be first-class docks, in the interest of the defence and of the trade of Canada, and also of the larger interests of the Empire. The matter has been considered by the Government, and no doubt by previous governments, and when the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Rogers) then Minister of Public Works was in England in March and April last, the matter was taken up with the Imperial authorities. He had many interviews with officials of the Admiralty, the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office, and urged the necessity, from the standpoint of the Empire itself, of constructing docks on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, of a size that would make them available for the accommodation of the largest war vessels and commercial vessels now afloat. The hon. member for Winnipeg has just informed me that he has some interesting correspondence on that subject which he had with members of the British Government, but that it is impossible for him to lay his hand on it this afternoon; and he has suggested that the matter be allowed to stand until the next sitting so that he may have an opportunity of giving that information to the House in more detail than he can do to-day. Under those circumstances, I suggest that we pass the second reading, with the understanding that we go into committee on the Bill at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to and Bill read the second time.

SUPPLY.

House again in Committee of Supply, Mr. Rainville in the Chair.

Public works chargeable to income—St. John harbour, extension of and repairs to Negro Point breakwater, \$250,000.

Mr. NESBITT: How much is there in the main estimates for this?

Mr. HAZEN: Nothing.

Mr. MURPHY: Is this a new work?

Mr. HAZEN: It is an extension of an old work.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Will the minister explain it?

Mr. HAZEN: The acting Minister of Public Works (Mr. Reid) is away to-day, and has asked me to bring the matter before the committee. It was before the committee on a previous occasion and there was some criticism of it. A good many years ago, during the time that the constituency