

Supply—Transport

Mr. Chevrier: Yes.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): Who are the contractors, and what was the amount of the contract?

Mr. Chevrier: The contractor is T. C. Gorman and the amount of the contract is \$1,216,777. It went to the lowest tender.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): Will that complete all the new facilities which are required at North Sydney?

Mr. Chevrier: It will not complete all of the new facilities, because the estimated cost of the project is \$2,600,000. There are some sheds to be built, some land to be expropriated and some equipment that will be required. The estimate of the cost of the work is \$2,600,000, and the contract has been awarded to these people for the amount mentioned.

Mr. Drew: In this instance is the \$1,500,000 voted last year still available for this purpose in addition to the amount now being voted?

Mr. Chevrier: No, it is not.

Mr. Drew: So that the only amount that is made available now for this purpose is the \$1,660,000?

Mr. Chevrier: That is right.

Mr. Drew: Therefore, what is now being voted will not complete the work?

Mr. Chevrier: That is right.

Mr. Drew: Is it possible to say when it is expected that this work will be fully completed?

Mr. Chevrier: I am informed it will not be completed until the summer of 1952.

Item agreed to.

498. Construction of new dock and terminal facilities at Port aux Basques, Nfld.—capital, \$500,000.

Mr. Drew: This is a provision for the construction or acquisition of buildings, works and land at Port aux Basques. Will the minister explain exactly what is contemplated there, and how far will it go toward completing the facilities required of what I understand is the other end of this transportation arrangement?

Mr. Chevrier: Yes, the hon. member is right. This is to provide the facilities at the other extremity of the run between North Sydney and Port aux Basques. The estimated cost of the development there, that is the construction of new dock and terminal facilities, will be \$3,500,000. There is provision in this estimate for \$500,000, because it is not expected that it will be possible during this fiscal year to have the work in sufficient readiness to ask for tenders and call bids.

[Mr. Black (Cumberland).]

This money will be used for the construction and acquisition of buildings, works, land and new equipment.

Mr. Drew: When is it expected that the work contemplated at Port aux Basques will be fully completed?

Mr. Chevrier: I hardly think before 1953.

Mr. Drew: I might explain the purpose of the question. It apparently is expected that the work at North Sydney will be completed by the summer of next year, and then, as I understand, the work that would be required to make the other end equally satisfactory for this new means of transportation will not be completed until the summer of 1953.

Mr. Chevrier: That is right.

Item agreed to.

499. Construction or acquisition of auto-ferry vessels, as detailed in the estimates—capital, \$2,550,000.

Mr. Drew: As I understand it this item is connected with the two previous items and provides for the acquisition of an auto-ferry vessel for the service between North Sydney and Port aux Basques. The estimated cost of the vessel is \$4,500,000. Will the minister explain why in this case \$2,500,000 is asked for and not the total figure of \$4,500,000, which the vessel will cost?

Mr. Chevrier: Because in the construction of these vessels it takes generally a period of two, three and sometimes more years. It is not anticipated that we can spend the full amount of the \$4,500,000 this fiscal year, because the vessel will not be completed. Detailed plans and specifications are just now being worked out and it is estimated that progress payments during this fiscal year will amount to \$2,500,000.

Mr. Drew: Has the contract yet been entered into for the construction of this vessel?

Mr. Chevrier: Yes, and the contractor is Canadian Vickers of Montreal.

Mr. Drew: When is it anticipated the ship will be completed?

Mr. Chevrier: In 1953.

Mr. Drew: So that it is anticipated, then, that the completion of the work at Port aux Basques and the availability of the ship will coincide, and that full service with the new ship and with facilities at both ends will be available in 1953?

Mr. Chevrier: That is the present expectation and the present estimate. But very often, because of lack of steel or lack of other materials, our dates are out of line.