

Mr. FISHER. There are no contractors down there and advertisements would be inserted in the Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec and Sherbrooke papers, I suppose.

Mr. BERGERON. I would suggest that you drop that advertising, it does not amount to anything. The government does not give the contract to the lowest tenderer.

Mr. FISHER. We do in every case.

Mr. BERGERON. I differ from that; it is only given to some of their own friends. The hon. gentleman cannot give a case in the last ten years of a public tender given to one who was not a friend of the government.

Mr. FISHER. I beg your pardon, in this very one, John Burns, of Ottawa, is a Conservative. This very contract has been given to a Conservative. My hon. friend is entirely unjustified in saying that they are not given to the lowest tenderer. There is not a single instance in these estimates where public or any tenders were asked that the work was not given to the lowest tenderer.

Mr. BERGERON. I think it is money spent for nothing.

Mr. FISHER. If I was to adopt that plan the hon. gentlemen opposite would criticise me from morning to night and I would never hear the end of it.

Baie St. Paul—improvements to wharf at Cap aux Corbeaux, \$1,800.

Mr. J. D. REID. Where is that?

Mr. FISHER. That is in Charlevoix county, represented by one of your friends.

Barachois de Malbaie—training piers, &c., \$8,700.

Mr. AMES. I wonder if this is a sample of the accuracy of the estimates of the department. Mr. Hyman told us that the total cost of this would be \$16,000. Twelve thousand six hundred dollars have already been spent and here is \$8,700 more. That would be \$21,300 or an advance of about 25 per cent or 30 per cent on the estimate. Is that as near as the estimate usually goes?

Mr. FISHER. Of course sometimes there is a possibility of a mistake.

Mr. AMES. Is that by day's work?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. AMES. Is not \$20,000 a large amount to be done by day's work year after year?

Mr. FISHER. It is hard to get contracts down there.

Mr. J. D. REID. It was not hard to get them down in Gaspé.

Mr. LEMIEUX. It is a large county; there are 300 miles of coast. The depart-

ment has secured the services of a very able and straight forward engineer, Mr. J. T. Bertrand, and he himself supervises this work. There are large lumbering operations there and it is quite an important place.

Mr. J. D. REID. It would look better for the Postmaster General if it was done by contract. I am perfectly satisfied that a work of that size could be done by contract, but it looks to me as if the Postmaster General was distributing it to a lot of friends in that locality.

Mr. FISHER. It would cost \$300 for advertising to which my hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) objects.

Mr. AVERY. Is that near the place where the government built a dock and had not a deed to it after it was completed?

Mr. FISHER. No.

Mr. J. D. REID. Are there any other places there where the work is not done by contract?

Mr. FISHER. This is the only one.

Bic harbour—wharf at Pointe à Côté, \$10,000.

Mr. MONK. Is this recommended by the Transportation Commission?

Mr. FISHER. This is in Rimouski county; it is intended to be let by contract.

Mr. J. D. REID. Has anything been done there before?

Mr. FISHER. There has been work done to connect the island with the mainland. The work is being done by day's work, that is the filling in, and the wharf outside the island will be done by contract.

Mr. J. D. REID. How much has been spent already?

Mr. FISHER. Nearly \$5,000.

Mr. AMES. There was \$5,000 in 1904 and \$4,500 in 1905; a very considerable sum was spent last summer. There must have been \$20,000 all told.

Mr. FISHER. The total expenditure to June 30, 1906, was \$9,500. Then there was \$4,378 last year, about \$14,000 and the total is expected to be \$26,000.

Mr. J. D. REID. And that was all done by day's work?

Mr. FISHER. Up to the present time; we are now ready to ask for a contract.

Mr. AMES. How much is it estimated the part of the work to be done by contract will cost?

Mr. FISHER. About \$14,000.

Mr. J. D. REID. There is only \$10,000 in the estimates now.