

the harbour at St. John first of all. We have no survey at all, and I have made up my mind not to do any more work until we have a survey.

Mr. FOSTER. This is a protection to the harbour which is absolutely necessary, whether there is a survey or not. That has either to be kept up, or the harbour will be destroyed. My hon. friend knows that a large amount of money has been spent there. A system has prevailed of putting in large blocks, and the storms which are very heavy there, will sweep them away. I think within the last two or three years there has been some solid work done there.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Our idea is to join Partridge Island with the works that are now made, so as to fully protect the harbour. But before we do that work, the engineer reports that it is necessary to have a full survey of the harbour.

Mr. FOSTER. There seems to have been only \$5,000 spent last year.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. In repairs, in making concrete blocks. They have been found to stand very well.

River St. John and tributaries..... \$16,000

Mr. FOSTER. Where is this to be expended?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The idea is to build a dredge for inland navigation work, costing about \$9,000, and repairs are to be made at the Oromocto dam and a weir is to be constructed at the Oromocto Island. The idea of this work is to give eleven feet of water between Fredericton and St. John, and four feet of water between Fredericton and Woodstock. Of course, it would require a larger sum of money to complete the work.

Mr. FOSTER. This is to be operated above the city?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes.

Public Works—Maritime Provinces in general \$10,000

Mr. POWELL. I desire to draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to a breakwater in the county of Westmoreland, the artificial harbour at Cape Tormentine. A large sum of money has been spent upon that, and the department is now brought face to face with a very serious problem indeed, either that work must be abandoned altogether or some immediate repairs must be made. I think \$8,000 or \$10,000 judiciously expended now, would save in the course of a few years \$40,000 or \$50,000. A mistake was made at the beginning owing to the fact that creosote wood was not used in the construction, and in consequence the borer or worm that destroys wood in the salt water on the shores of the Gulf,

has been very destructive indeed. It has undermined all the woodwork, and the stones in the cribs are now tumbling into the sea. It is not an uncommon thing for immense portions of this work to be case ashore by the tide. The work must be proceeded with at once, in order to save what remains. For years the trade has increased immensely in that harbour. The lumber from the eastern portion of the country is now all shipped there, trade is being drawn there and in a few years, if the harbour is maintained in a state of efficiency, the trade will have largely increased. Last year the Minister of Marine inaugurated a winter steamboat service there, and this winter service must be always maintained, unless my hon. friend from King's (Mr. Domville) is successful in having the tunnel constructed.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My hon. friend is mistaken as to the cost of the work. If it was only a matter of \$10,000 or \$15,000, perhaps I would have undertaken it; but reports have been laid before me showing that to put the Tormentine works in a good state of repair, would require \$100,000, and the magnitude of that sum frightens me. I quite agree with my hon. friend that this is a work of great importance, and a great mistake was committed when it was constructed with timber that had not been creosoted. In consequence, the work has been nearly destroyed by the worms. I quite agree with him that something must be done. I will bring the question before Council for very serious consideration.

Mr. POWELL. In my estimate of \$10,000, I was basing my view upon what would have been sufficient last spring when I called the Minister of Public Works attention to it. In the present state of the harbour, the estimate of the Minister of Public Works may be true, if the report of his engineers is to be relied upon. But this I will say, that if \$10,000 or \$15,000 had been expended last summer, it would have been sufficient to put the works in a fair state of repair, no matter what the hon. gentleman's engineers may say about it. It is a matter for the exercise of a little common sense. To go to work and rebuild it may take \$100,000. But if, when I called the Minister's attention to it last year, \$10,000 had been spent simply in dumping stones on the outside—because this borer will not work in the dark—that pier would have been preserved, and the action of the water would not have worn it away. It may be that at present the work of disintegration has proceeded so far that it is necessary to expend \$100,000; but \$15,000 judiciously expended last year would have saved the expenditure of that large amount.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I think my hon. friend is once more mistaken, because if we had done as he proposed the work would have been destroyed all