

under the contract, and I think the approach to the dry dock is almost completed.

Mr. FIELDING: Who are the present contractors? I think there was some change at one time.

Mr. McCURDY: The St. John Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company Limited.

Mr. FIELDING: Are they local people? The original contractors were from the Old Country.

Mr. McCURDY: The original contractors in 1911 were Norton, Griffiths and Company Limited.

Mr. FIELDING: They are not now?

Mr. McCURDY: No. I understand the contractors are all Canadians. Some Ontario people, I believe, are members of the company. It is a limited liability company, and the information I have comes from the advertisements in connection with some of the bonds issued by the company.

Mr. COPP: The contract was first awarded to Norton, Griffiths and Company Limited. Did they do any work at all, and was anything paid to them?

Mr. McCURDY: The final estimate paid to Norton, Griffiths and Company Limited was \$3,913,802.07.

Mr. FIELDING: A fresh contract was made, I think, in 1918 with the local company?

Mr. McCURDY: That is correct.

Mr. COPP: That contract was for \$4,000,000 odd?

Mr. McCURDY: Yes.

Mr. COPP: The whole cost of the work would be what was paid to Norton Griffiths and Company Limited and the present contract for some \$4,000,000 odd?

Mr. McCURDY: Yes.

Mr. COPP: Can my hon. friend tell me from any report of his engineers when this work is to be completed?

Mr. McCURDY: The contract calls for completion on June 30, 1922.

Mr. COPP: This Courtenay bay work has been before the public for a great many years, and if it is going to be of any service to the Maritime Provinces by providing us with a winter port, I should like to see it carried to completion. Is the work being carried on now without any break?

[Mr. McCurdy.]

Mr. McCURDY: The work ceased for about two months during last winter on account of exhaustion of the appropriation, but it was resumed about three or four weeks ago. I do not know whether or not the work will be completed at the time set out in the contract; it is difficult to anticipate just what progress will be made.

Mr. COPP: I read in the press some time ago an article rather condemning this work on the ground that the silt and sand was filling in as the dredging was being done. Have any reports been made to the department as to the probable final success of the work?

Mr. McCURDY: As my hon. friend has said, this project of the improvement of Courtenay bay has been before the public for many years. Many able engineers have opinions on the subject, and possibly there is difference of opinion as to just how effective the work will be. I have not had occasion to inquire particularly into what will be the result of the work as completed. The department has not been initiating anything new in Courtenay bay; the works at present being carried on are proceeding under contract, and I think my hon. friend will understand that there is no special reason why engineering investigations should be made as to their ultimate working out. As a matter of fact, engineers' opinions differ, and any investigation now might be productive only of further opinions. A more satisfactory study of that aspect of the question could probably be made when the present work is completed.

Mr. COPP: I can hardly agree with my hon. friend in that regard. I should think that sufficient work had been done to enable engineers and experts in that line to form some definite opinion in the matter. I would be very sorry to learn that the condemnation to which I have referred is well-founded, because I have always looked forward to the time when the port of St. John would be of very great advantage to Canada, and I am sure that the completion of this work will be of great benefit to the winter port business of the Maritime Provinces as well as to the trade of the whole of Canada. But there have been rumours in different quarters indicating a very strong opinion on the part of some that this work is a waste of public money. I do not believe that is the case, and I think the department would only be doing justice to the Maritime Provinces, and to the port