distinguished, how alert or how efficient they might be, these gentlemen could not accomplish as much as three local boards, one on the Pacific, one on the Atlantic and one on the St. Lawrence river. The minister suggested difficulties which might arise in the appointment of the commissioners. He suggested that in the maritime provinces a difficulty might arise as between Saint John and Halifax and on the St. Lawrence, between Quebec, Three Rivers, Montreal, Sorel and Chicoutimi. These difficulties, in my opinion, are insignificant as compared with the discontent which will certainly arise in these various cities over the loss of the autonomous government of their harbours.

There is much colour and substance in the statement made by the minister as regards certain things needing correction. The harbour boards were not infallible and I am free to admit that mistakes were committed. As long as we shall have to rely upon human beings to administer our harbours, mistakes will be committed. The three men to be selected by the government, no matter how carefully selected, will not be infallible and they will make mistakes. But I submit that well selected men, conversant with local conditions, would be of greater service than three government officials sitting in Ottawa. No matter how devoted these men might be in the discharge of their duties, they could not possibly be as efficient as men chosen in the locality.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

END OF VOLUME II

