

change the site of the wharf to another place further down the Strait. The reason for making this change was that the government wanted to purchase a site from a Conservative heeler in that locality, as a reward for his political services. The wharf was built at this new location, and then it turned out that there was not enough water there to make the wharf of any service to the people. The intention was to build a wharf at which the steamer which plies between Guysborough and Mulgrave could call, but the water is so shallow the steamer is unable to come in, and consequently the wharf is no good to anybody. The owner of the land got his purchase price for it, and he was the only person who benefited by the expenditure of \$5,000 at that point. So there is one case in which the minister changed an item in the estimates, and if he was able to change an item then, he ought to be able to change one now for my hon. friend from South Cape Breton.

The minister has never answered my question as to the principle which is acted upon in making up the estimates. I have pointed out to him that there has been an item in the estimates for the last six years for the building of a wharf in my constituency at a point where it is very much needed. Time after time the minister and his predecessors have promised to construct the wharf. The point where this wharf is required is not in the woods, where there are no roads or people, but in a thickly settled district, and the people of Cole Harbour, Charlos' Cove, Cashin's Cove and American Harbour have all asked that it be built. The minister has cut that item out of the estimates, and in its place has an item for the building of a wharf at Ben Eoin, where apparently there are no inhabitants and no roads to give access to the wharf. I should like the minister to tell the committee on what principle he makes these changes in the estimates.

Mr. REID: There are, of course, many wharves in the province of Nova Scotia, and applications are coming in every year for new wharves. Some of these applications are put off from time to time, but each year the minister takes up the most pressing cases, and selects those which he thinks are the most urgent. These items are all small amounts. Personally I feel that the people who have not the advantage of railway accommodation should have the benefit of wharves, and that these should be much closer together than in the older settled parts of Canada where there are

railway facilities. I have never raised any objection, and never will, to giving the people along the Atlantic coast proper wharf accommodation. The hon. member says that he knows of a case where the money was not spent where it was intended to be spent. My information is that the department do not know of a case of that kind, nor do they understand that it is possible to change the location when the vote has specified the point at which the money must be spent. But it may happen that the engineer may move the site a hundred feet or perhaps half a mile if he thinks it will be an improvement, and that is quite within the spirit of the law.

Mr. CARROLL: But this money has not been voted yet.

Mr. REID: It is in the estimates, and if the item goes through, the wharf will be constructed at that point. Possibly there may be other points in the hon. member's constituency where the need is more pressing; that is a matter of opinion. I have never been in that locality, and my hon. friend knows it better than I do, but the officials of the department down there say that that is the point where this wharf should be built.

Mr. CARROLL: They are not doing their duty.

Mr. REID: A number of people live in that locality.

Mr. CARROLL: Not where the wharf is to be; nobody lives there at all.

Mr. REID: Ben Eoin is situated on the southern shore of East bay, thirteen miles southwest of the city of Sydney, which is the nearest railway station. It has a population of about a hundred, whose principal occupation is farming and fishing.

Mr. CARROLL: My hon. friend is referring to East Bay. At Ben Eoin there are only about seven families, and if the wharf is built at that point, it will be right at the bottom of a mountain. Half a mile down the shore at East Bay, where the population is, there has been a wharf for a great many years, perhaps for half a century, and it has been kept in repair by succeeding governments.

It serves the people of East Bay, the 100 families the hon. gentleman refers to, together with the seven or eight families on the mountain of Ben Eoin, four miles from East Bay. Three or four years ago, or more, the wharf got into disrepair, and a petition was sent to the Government to have