

MR. SPEAKER: I think that, under the circumstances, the hon. member ought to withdraw the motion.

Motion, with leave of the House, *withdrawn*.

INGONISH HARBOUR.

RESOLUTION PROPOSED.

Order for Mr. Speaker to leave the Chair, for the House to go again in Committee of Supply, *read*.

Mr. McDONALD (Cape Breton) said he wished to move an amendment and would not detain the House at any length. It was in reference to one of those contracts of which they had heard so much of late in this House. The facts he was going to state would show how the Government could award contracts to the lowest tenderers, and, at the same time, compensate them if they were friends of the Government. The motion was as follows:—

“That by a return of the House of the 16th February, 1877, dated 1st March, 1877, —and also by a Return to an Order of the House of the 19th March, 1877, and dated 20th March, 1877, for copies of all tenders and contracts, plans and other correspondence, relating to the Ingonish Harbour contract, in Nova Scotia, it appears:—

“That on the 10th May, 1873, the contract for building Ingonish Harbour was awarded to F. W. McKenrie, for the sum of \$78,208.60; that in pursuance thereof an agreement was entered into, on the 22nd July, 1873, between F. W. McKenrie and the Minister of Public Works; that under the terms of the agreement, afterwards renewed between Ross & McKay, to whom the contract was transferred by the said F. W. McKenrie and the present Government on the 5th February, 1874, it was stipulated, that any change which the Government Engineer deemed necessary to be made in the original plans, should be so made by the contractor, and if extra expenses were entailed by such changes, the contractor should be paid extra for them; but should the change lessen the original expense, then such should be deducted from the amount of the contract;

“That by the said contract, the said Ross & McKay were bound to build a Breakwater 700 feet long, and were to make good all damages it might sustain during its construction; that they were to dredge a channel into the Harbour 200 feet wide, and 15 feet deep; the contract was to be finished on or before the 31st December, 1874; that the contractor was liable for any salary or wage

due the person superintending the work in behalf of the Government for any time he might serve in so superintending beyond the 31st December, 1874;

That on the 31st September, 1876, Mr. Perley, Government Engineer, six months after the work should have been finished, recommended extra work, estimated to cost \$2,000;

That it appears the said Breakwater was not taken off the hands of the contractor before the 17th February, 1877; that at that time there were but 535 feet, less than provided by the terms of the contract;

That it does not appear that the channel has been dredged 200 feet wide, and 15 feet deep, as per terms of contract, and as recommended on the 26th January, 1876, both by Mr. Perley and Mr. Baillargé; but, on the contrary the papers go to show that it has been dredged only 60 feet wide, and 12 feet deep;

That it appears the sum of \$1,975 was paid one Angus McLeod, Superintendent on this work, in behalf of the Government for attendance subsequent to the 31st December, 1874, the terms on which the work should have been completed;

That, notwithstanding the reduction in the length of the Breakwater, and that the dredging was not done to the width of 200 feet, and to the depth of 15 feet, but only to 60 feet wide, and 12 feet deep, and the extension of the time for building it to over two years, the Government paid the full amount of contract \$78,208.60 cents; and also extras to the amount of \$3,643, without deducting therefrom the allowance for the Breakwater being less in length, and the dredging less in width and depth as aforesaid, and without deducting the \$1,975, paid for the services of Superintendent after the time allowed for the completion of the contract;

That in the opinion of this House, there was paid to the contractors a great deal more than ought to have been paid, causing serious loss to the country.”

He proposed to prove from the papers brought down, all these facts. The first statement was, that the contract was awarded to F. W. McKenrie, on the 10th May, 1873. The minute of Council passed on the 10th May, 1873, showed the contract was awarded to F. W. McKenrie. The specifications and plans of work annexed shows the dredging required at 200 feet wide, and 15 feet deep below low water mark, and also the length of the breakwater at 700 feet. Another clause in the specifications was as follows:

“The bulk sum mentioned in the tender must cover the entire cost of furnishing all dredging machines or vessels, screws, steam