

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. I suggest that this Bill might stand over till next year until the minister takes charge of all the government wharfs in the country. I understand that some of them are now under the Department of Public Works and that we collect no tolls on them, and some of them are under the Department of Marine and Fisheries. I think the minister should have some official to visit all the wharfs in the country, take stock of them, and bring in a report, and then adopt a comprehensive business plan of dealing with all the wharfs, with a uniform scale of charges.

Mr. BRODEUR. I want to get this legislation passed in order to have all the wharfs now under the Department of Public Works transferred to my department, and then we shall be in a position to carry out the suggestion of my hon. friend. I am beginning with this legislation, which I think will prove to be somewhat successful. My hopes may not be realized, but as soon as it is passed, the intention of the Minister of Public Works is to transfer to my department all the wharfs which are under the control of his department, and then we will try to put in execution the policy now adopted. But if we have the wharfs transferred without having this legislation, the situation will not be very much improved.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. This legislation will not transfer the wharfs. I think we should have a report from some officer showing what wharfs the country owns. Then we can form some estimate of what the revenue will be. For instance, who owns the wharf at Hull, and what revenue is derived from it? Is it under the Department of Public Works or under the Marine Department?

Mr. FOSTER. It ought to belong to the Department of Militia, according to the definition of the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith), because it is one of the frills.

Mr. BRODEUR. I have a list of the wharfs from which we have collected some revenue, and I do not see it mentioned among them. I cannot say whether it has been transferred to my department or not.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. That is what we ought to know. Here is a wharf costing \$100,000 or more, right under the minister's eyes, and he does not know whether it belongs to his department or to the Department of Public Works, nor does he know what revenue it yields—or, rather, according to him, no revenue is received. I understand that there is a wharf at Canning, N.S. Which department does it belong to, and what is the revenue?

Mr. J. D. TAYLOR

Mr. BRODEUR. I do not see the Canning wharf among those from which revenue was drawn last year. I suppose it has not been transferred.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. That shows the necessity of doing business on business principles. Would any man, owning a lot of wharfs all over the country, go on without an inventory of the property and a statement of what it was bringing in? Before the minister asks for legislation, he should have the wharfs transferred to his department, then have a proper inventory made of the properties, what each cost, what revenue it is yielding and what revenue ought to be got from it. Then he can ask for legislation to authorize him either to lease to a company or to manage the property under uniform charges.

Mr. BRADBURY. When this matter was before the House on a former occasion, I called attention to the fact that we had a large dock at Selkirk which must have cost a lot of money. I think it is under control of the Public Works Department. But, in effect, it is controlled by one or two lumber companies, and is at times so blocked that it is of no use to anybody else. I ask the minister whether, if this legislation was passed, this wharf would be affected. I presume that it would be, and that it will be managed in a different way from what it is to-day. Though there has been so large an expenditure of public money on this dock, it is used at the present time exclusively, or to a very great extent in the interests of one large company. There are times when, from end to end, it is piled with lumber, and a man cannot walk along it in safety. There is a wharfinger I know, and I understand that he gets \$300 a year, but I cannot find anything in the public documents to indicate that he is paid by the government. I sincerely hope that this block or wharf will be kept clear of an obstruction and that it will be managed in the interest of the public and not in the interest of any one or two companies.

Mr. BRODEUR. I have no particular information with regard to that wharf. It is probably one of those in which there has been—I admit it—no very rigid administration. The Bill I am now proposing is for the purpose of introducing a more active administration of these properties. I have asked the Minister of Public Works, and he is agreed, that all the wharfs under control of the Public Works Department shall be transferred to the Marine and Fisheries. Then we will proceed to lease them and commute the rates, or, in other cases, collect the wharfage direct, especially where several companies use the same wharf. In the case mentioned by my hon. friend (Mr. Bradbury), tenders will probably be asked for the leasing of the wharf. But, if there