

Supply—Miscellaneous

to correct that is to have a frequent interchange of inspectors between different offices. The only additional expense entailed would be the travelling and living expenses of the inspectors while they are being temporarily transferred from one office to another. I think we must endeavour to make this system much more uniform than it is now, and it seems to me that what I suggest is one of the best ways of getting that done. I hope the minister will see that the matter is taken up with the board so that if possible they may make provision for having some such interchange of inspectors during the next inspection season.

Item agreed to.

Halifax elevator—additional amount required, \$130,000.

Mr. STEVENS: What is that for?

Mr. EVANS: To what extent is this elevator being used? Has there been an increase in the quantity of wheat going through Halifax during the last year or two?

Mr. ROBB: My hon. friend knows that Halifax is largely a winter port. It was complained, when the elevator was completed, that there were only facilities for loading a vessel at one dock. This additional expenditure is to provide for carriers to three different docks so that there will not be any delay in the loading of vessels when they come to the port.

Mr. COOTE: Does the minister think that this will really help in causing the elevator to be used?

Mr. ROBB: It has been so represented to us by the railway and shipping companies.

Mr. QUINN: Is there any likelihood of this money being spent before March 31, 1927?

Mr. ROBB: I could not say. I think a part of the money has been already spent. If it is not spent we will have to re-vote it so as to continue the work which is under contract.

Mr. CANTLEY: How much grain has gone through the Halifax elevator up to the present time, or up to the end of the year?

Mr. ROBB: I have not that information here.

Item agreed to.

Equipment of elevators—further amount required, \$78,150.

Mr. SPENCER: We must have some explanation of this.

Mr. ROBB: The expenditure on the Port Arthur elevator is \$29,900. Then there are these other items:

[Mr. Coote.]

Moose Jaw elevator: alterations to driers, \$8,850.

Saskatoon elevator: alterations to driers, \$8,850.

Calgary elevator: alterations to driers, \$8,850.
Construction and installation of additional drying equipment and boiler house, \$75,000.

Construction and equipment of feed-chopping and sacking plant, \$30,000.

Item agreed to.

Prince Rupert elevator site, \$165,000.

Mr. STEVENS: What is the explanation of this rather extraordinary item?

Mr. ROBB: This amount is required to pay for the site of the Prince Rupert elevator.

Mr. STEVENS: Three years after it was built.

Mr. ROBB: The valuation placed on this site—part of water lot E—is \$70 per foot for the 1500-foot frontage, which amounts to \$105,000, and in addition to this—60,000 yards of rock filling at \$1 per yard was placed on the site, thereby bringing the valuation up to \$165,000. The property in question belonged to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company and the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company, of which two companies the Minister of Railways and Canals is the government receiver. The properties of these companies are being administered by the Canadian National Railways as agents for the government receiver in liquidation. So we had to pay this amount into these companies to keep ourselves straight with the bond-holders of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Mr. COOTE: What amount of grain went through the Prince Rupert elevator last year?

Mr. ROBB: I am not sure that we have those figures. The elevator now is under lease to the Grain Growers Grain Company.

Mr. COOTE: Who was responsible for the valuation of \$70 a foot placed on this site?

Mr. ROBB: The arbitrators, I think. We had arbitrators so as to protect the government, and in order that the bond-holders of the Grand Trunk Pacific and of the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company should not say that the government had treated them unfairly in the handling of this land. I have not the names of the arbitrators before me.

Mr. SPENCER: I think the minister is in error in the statement he has made. He told the House that the elevator was under lease to the Grain Growers Grain Company. Is it not the Alberta wheat pool?

Mr. ROBB: I think my hon. friend is right. It is the Alberta wheat pool.

Item agreed to.