

this great question. The time must come when they will be educated. Why does not the hon. gentleman commence that work of education? The whole system pursued by the government in the distribution of these little works is with the idea of corrupting the people, who in the end have to pay the cost out of their own pockets. I endorse all that has been said by my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier. If, instead of criticising the speech of my hon. friend (Mr. Monk), the minister would rise and say that in the future he would put an end to these useless expenditures, he would be doing himself credit, and he might have a chance of retaining the portfolio of Public Works, which is one of the most desirable of all the portfolios.

Mr. J. D. REID. As an Ontario member I endorse what has been said by my hon. friends (Mr. Monk and Mr. Bergeron) in favour of equipping the port of Montreal in the most efficient and most modern manner. The same would apply to the ports of Halifax, St. John and Quebec. The expenditure made by the government in some of these ports does not seem to have been economic or prudent. It is now said that the elevator at Montreal which cost the country hundreds of thousands of dollars, is practically useless, and that very little grain has been elevated in or through it. Take all these estimates of expenditure amounting to practically one hundred million dollars this year, and there are many of them that could be much better applied to improving our transportation facilities. We are voting a million dollars for instance, for Ross rifles, which are absolutely useless.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is out of order.

Mr. J. D. REID. I am referring generally to these useless expenditures.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The item before the committee is for a landing pier at Anse à L'Ilot and the hon. gentleman is proceeding to discuss the expenditure on the Ross rifle.

Mr. BERGERON. When your friends were not in power, don't you remember that for hours they went on discussing all sorts of things in committee?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. That is no reason why the rule should be broken now. Discussion must be confined to the question before the committee.

Mr. BERGERON. The question is the public expenditure.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. That general discussion can come up when Mr. Speaker is in the chair, on the motion to go into committee, but once we are in committee you cannot discuss the Ross rifle on a vote for a landing pier at Anse à L'Ilot.

Mr. BERGERON.

Mr. J. D. REID. I am not going to discuss the Ross rifle; I am simply referring to it as an example of useless expenditure. Is it now understood that we cannot discuss anything but the particular item which is before us?

Mr. FISHER. We have sometimes been allowed a good deal of latitude, but for the sake of despatch of business it is necessary that we should confine ourselves to the item under consideration. My hon. friend (Mr. Reid) is an old enough member of the House to know, that while these items are grouped together it is understood that each item shall be discussed as it is called.

Mr. J. D. REID. We have always been allowed to discuss the general question, and now the minister is going to suppress discussion and shut us off.

Mr. FISHER. It is desirable the discussion should be confined to the item, in the interest of the speedy despatch of business.

Mr. J. D. REID. The minister may think it is to his advantage to do this, but it may not turn out so in the end.

Mr. BERGERON. There is no desire to delay supply, as was shown in the passage of the New Brunswick estimates. So far as the Quebec items are concerned I can say that there is every desire to facilitate their passage. This is a discussion on a general topic, and it will not last long.

Mr. J. D. REID. The minister will not find that this tends to the despatch of business.

Mr. BLAIN. How much has been expended on this work. When the item was before the House in 1905 the minister said \$1,000 would complete it.

Mr. FISHER. The appropriation for 1906-7 was \$3,000, and the expenditure \$2,500, leaving a revote of \$500. There was a total expenditure before the 30th of June, 1906, of \$1,819.70. This vote will complete the work.

Anse du Cap (Cape cove breakwater), \$7,750.

Mr. AMES. Who owns the land where this is being built?

Mr. LEMIEUX. This is in the county of Gaspé. The people deeded the land to the Department of Public Works, at my request.

Mr. AMES. Is the work being done by contract?

Mr. FISHER. Yes. The contractor is John Burns, of Ottawa; the amount, \$13,300; it is to be finished in August, 1907. Five tenders were received and this was the lowest.

Mr. AMES. The cost of advertising for tenders for this work was \$219. Is not that pretty large for a small work?