

Mr. FISHER. Yes, he said that any arrangements which he entered into with the Digby town council had no reference to the government of the day. That being the case, the argument of the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) does not apply.

Mr. FOWLER. As a matter of fact the contract that was entered into between my hon. friend and the town of Digby did not confine its operation to the company at all, and the natural inference would be—

Mr. FISHER. My hon. friend has made the statement and the hon. member has to accept it.

Mr. FOWLER. I quite understand that, but I am pointing out how the layman outside, who is not bound to accept any statement made in this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has to accept the statement and that must be the end of the matter for the present. There is another way of bringing it up if he wishes.

Mr. FOWLER. I am not disputing the ruling of the chair in the slightest, but I am saying that while I accept the statement as absolutely true, I still have the right to point out how a person who is not bound by parliamentary rule looks at it. It seems to me that that position is unassailable. That being the case and the contract being silent as to where this money is to be got, the natural inference to the lay mind would be that, as the hon. gentleman representing that district in this House is a supporter of the government, he was going to get the money from the Dominion treasury.

Mr. FISHER. Honi soit qui mal y pense.

Mr. FOWLER. That is very true but at the same time—

Mr. FISHER. You do not dispute it?

Mr. BERGERON. But there was a question of woman in that case.

Mr. FOWLER. Since the hon. gentleman has said that it has nothing to do with the Dominion government, I am bound to accept his statement and do so most cheerfully.

Eskasoni wharf, Nova Scotia, \$1,000.

Mr. AMES. What is the population of the town?

Mr. FISHER. It includes the village of Eskasoni. The wharf is used by a large number of people in the back part of the country, who come down and use it for fishing operations in the fishing season.

Mr. AMES. Are the inhabitants mostly Indians?

Mr. FISHER. There is an Indian settlement there who do a good deal of fishing.

Mr. AMES. From whom was the land purchased?

Mr. FISHER. The site was purchased from Mr. E. T. Bowen for \$1. That is to say the approach to it.

Mr. AMES. Is Mr. Bowen a storekeeper there?

Mr. FISHER. I do not know.

Mr. AMES. Is the wharf of service to anybody but him?

Mr. FISHER. It is of service to a large settlement, comprising a number of Indians and about a hundred white men.

Mr. SAM HUGHES. Is there a collector of customs there?

Mr. FISHER. I do not know.

Mr. BERGERON. Are you going to build a post office there?

Mr. FISHER. Not at present.

Mr. AMES. How many tenders were there?

Mr. FISHER. Six in answer to public advertisement. The lowest \$2,875; the highest \$3,700. The lowest was accepted.

Mr. AMES. Where does Mr. T. D. Morrison, the contractor, live?

Mr. FISHER. At Descouse.

Mr. AMES. I wish in this case to congratulate the government. Here is an expenditure of \$3,000 all told, yet it has been thought advisable to call for tenders and give a definite contract for the work and the work is to be done in one season. This should be applied in many cases which are now done by days work, but the minister has always contended that small contracts could not be carried out except by days work. Well, here is proof to the contrary. This work will soon all be completed and that will be the last we shall hear of the euphonious name of Eskasoni.

Mr. FISHER. We always call for tenders in the case of a work which is specific and can be measured in advance.

Mr. PERLEY. Does the government own the land?

Mr. FISHER. This is an enlargement of a wharf.

Mr. PERLEY. Is it the policy of the government to own the land on which wharfs are built?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. PERLEY. In this county there have been public works built on land which the government did not own. There is one particularly at Gunning cove, a short distance away, about which I asked a question