

Mr. COPP: Before the committee leaves the general item connected with rentals I would like to ask my hon. friend a question in regard to buildings like the Rea Building which the Government have rented. Where the whole building is rented, is the cost of heating and lighting included in the rental, or do the Government pay for that besides?

Mr. McCURDY: The practice varies in different buildings. In the case cited by my hon. friend the department does pay for the lighting and heating. The rental of the building is \$85,000 a year and in addition we bear the cost of lighting and caretaking.

Mr. COPP: I suppose that would be true generally where you have the whole building rented?

Mr. McCURDY: As a rule where we have the whole building we take care of the service.

Item agreed to.

Harbours and rivers, \$4,031,000.

The CHAIRMAN: This item No. 128 was under consideration immediately after the House resumed this evening, and Mr. Leger had asked a question concerning it.

Mr. McCURDY: I will answer that now. This amount of \$1,250,000 for St. John Harbour is required to carry on the following improvements:

Courtenay Bay improvements under contract..	\$1,200,000
St. John West, protection to concrete exposed to sea action.. . . .	10,000
Maintenance of harbour work.. . . .	40,000

The Courtenay bay improvements are required—so the report goes on to state—to increase the present shipping facilities in St. John harbour. The work comprises an extension of the existing breakwater for a distance of 2,500 feet, dredging channel from main channel St. John harbour to the basin in front of the proposed dry dock for an area 7,200 feet long by 500 feet wide to a uniform depth of 22 feet, completing dredging of basin in front of proposed dry dock to a depth of 22 feet, and dredging the channel from the basin to the proposed dry dock. The total estimated cost is \$4,917,478.10.

Mr. FIELDING: Yet to be spent or including past expenditure?

Mr. McCURDY: That refers to the present contract. These are the figures:

Amount of contract, as per unit prices, approximately.. . . .	\$4,683,312 50
Gross amount of last progress estimate No. 27.. . . .	2,606,690 00

Amount of work still to be performed to complete contract, about..	\$2,076,622 50
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Drawback..	\$ 260,660 00
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Further amount earned but withheld owing to exhaustion of appropriation for St. John Harbour improvements	181,990 00
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Mr. LEGER: What time of the year was this contract given?

Mr. McCURDY: July 11, 1918.

Mr. LEGER: In view of the financial situation of the country a couple of years ago and at the present time I think that that contract should never have been entered into. Repairs to small wharves in various parts of the country have to be neglected for lack of money, and yet we see this large amount of \$1,250,000 expended in a way that I do not think will result in any benefit to the country for some years to come.

Mr. FIELDING: Do the figures include the dry dock?

Mr. McCURDY: No, the dry dock is being constructed under the Dry Dock Subsidies Act—an entirely different matter.

Mr. FIELDING: I think I am right in stating that the dry dock forms part of the other contract. The two were associated together at one time, and although the Dry Dock Subsidies Act may apply, I think the contractors included in their undertaking the building of the dry dock.

Mr. McCURDY: In this sense, that the contract for the St. John harbour improvements bound the contractors to build under the Dry Dock Subsidies Act a dry dock.

Mr. FIELDING: But the figures given by the hon. gentleman do not include the dry dock at all?

Mr. McCURDY: No.

Mr. FIELDING: The dry dock being part of the general operations, cannot the hon. gentleman tell us what progress has been made with it? It is part of the same scheme.

Mr. McCURDY: No vote is asked for the purpose of the dry dock, and I have not complete particulars under my hand regarding it; but, generally speaking, the excavation of the dry dock has been completed