

Mr. POULIOT: The cement company forced him to do that. This is one of the reasons why I have such respect for the Minister of Public Works. I saved the government money on that occasion. I should like to give the committee another instance. Some work was being done upon the wharf at Riviere du Loup and the government was being defrauded by means of padded pay-rolls. Not only that, but government money was being used to provide joy rides for these men and their families all around the district. I called this to the attention of the minister and he forced these people to pay back this money. The fact that this money was recovered was due to the efforts of Jean-François Pouliot, who mentioned the matter in the House of Commons. I direct this to the attention of the hon. members for Shefford and Compton who complain that I speak too often in this chamber. Let me give the committee another instance. A wharf was being constructed at Cap St. Ignace and I learned that rotten timber was being used in its construction. Mr. Chairman, perhaps you are hearing of this matter for the first time. This matter did not concern my own constituency, but we are elected to represent the country as a whole and I thought it my duty to notify the minister of what was happening. The minister sent the chief engineer to investigate the construction of this wharf. The chief engineer ordered the removal of the stone filling in order to inspect the timber at the bottom of the wharf. It was found to be rotted and the contractor was forced to change it.

Mr. CASGRAIN: You win again.

Mr. POULIOT: Instead of the wharf having been constructed with rotten timber, it was constructed with firm timber which will last much longer. I saved the country a lot of money. If I speak occasionally in the House of Commons, the government is paid for the time I use by what I save outside. I believe the country benefits more from the time I use than it would if I were selling my brother's jam. The fact is my brother does not sell jam or preserves.

Mr. GOBEIL: The hon. member spends inside what he saves outside.

Mr. POULIOT: But there is a surplus and that is about the only surplus the government has. It should be thankful to me for what I do. I have no desire to be unpleasant to any hon. member on the other side, even to any who might be disagreeable to me. They do not succeed in their efforts even

[Mr. P. Mercier.]

though they try very hard. I see smiles upon the countenances of some of them. I see the countenances of my hon. friends from Shefford and Compton are adorned with very pleasant smiles. I assume they are satisfied with my explanation and I hope in the future they will follow the example I have set and endeavour to save the government money in the construction of public works. In the meantime I am glad to tell the Minister of my very high appreciation of and regard for what he has done in those circumstances, and I hope he will not lose any opportunity, when occasion offers, to help the people of my riding.

Mr. McINTOSH: Has the hon. member one left?

Mr. POULIOT: I have one left now. I do not know what is going to happen, but at present I defend my own people, my own family, Conservatives as well as Liberals. In conclusion, I may say that I am sure the minister will be fair to me; and I shall be fair to him and treat him with due justice.

Mr. TETREAULT: On a question of privilege I want to reply to the hon. member for Temiscouata.

Mr. POULIOT: I said that the hon. member was smiling. Is he smiling?

Mr. TETREAULT: Yes, I am smiling. Is the hon. member smiling too?

Mr. DUPUIS: I told the minister that I had another favour, a very important one, to ask of him. In the town of Laprairie there was constructed by the Department of Public Works a protection wall.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): A dyke.

Mr. DUPUIS: Yes, a dyke. This was built in 1930; it was the continuation of a dyke which was begun ten, twenty years ago. To do that work, the Department of Public Works had to cover part of the public road leading from the town of Laprairie to St. Constant. Just that part of the road which follows the shore of the St. Lawrence was taken by the department, of course with the permission of the town of Laprairie. The dyke remains there. To provide for a similar road, the department built on the side of the dyke a kind of elevated road eighteen feet wide, not wide enough to replace the old road, because the latter was thirty-six feet in width. The department, in doing the work they did in Laprairie, had not directly the duty of building a road. I shall admit, because I presume the minister will tell me that it is not the duty of his department to build roads, but on