

Chicoutimi—Repairs to wharf, \$2,000.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Near Chicoutimi, the Northcliffe interests have put up a very large sulphite mill, at a point called Ha! Ha! Bay. The company has spent something like three or four million dollars. One of the works it has constructed is a wharf, but in ordinary times steamers cannot moor there. A company which has established such a large industry, and which has built a wharf of its own, is surely entitled to a little dredging around that wharf so that steamers can get as close to it as possible. I must say that the department, through the deputy minister, has always received favourably the requests of the company. They are employing I do not know how many hundred people, and are a source of wealth and abundance to that district, and the Department of Public Works should not be too chary in letting that industry have the use of one or two dredges on the river Saguenay to facilitate the landing of freight and the loading of sulphite on board the steamers.

Mr. CARVELL: This is the first I have heard of this matter. I am informed that the Government did the dredging at the site of the wharf. I will be glad to go into the matter, and do whatever is possible.

Harbours and rivers generally—Repairs and improvements, \$75,000.

Mr. ARCHAMBAULT: I would like to ask the minister to include in the Supplementary Estimates, or in this item, a sum for the partial reconstruction and repair of the wharf at Vercheres. In the spring of 1917 the wharf was carried away by the ice-shove. Since then, no repairs have been made. This wharf serves a farming community, which produced, last year, 300,000 bushels of grain and about 30,000 tons of hay. The boat that plies between Montreal and Sorel used to stop at Vercheres, and it is certainly a hardship for the farmers of that district to be deprived of steamship service. Vercheres is about thirty miles from Montreal, and it is practically impossible for the farmers to bring their products to Montreal in any other way than by boat. If the minister could find a way to set aside the sum of \$6,000, the work could be done. I understand the district engineer, Mr. Dansereau, made a favourable report on March 23 last.

Mr. CARVELL: My hon. friend has spoken to me about this matter on a number of occasions, and if the wharf is not built, his constituents cannot complain that

he has not been diligent, or that he has not done all that he possibly could. Now, there is a report in the department, and I want to confess to my hon. friend that I have never found time to go over it. He can understand that the ministers have been very busy. But, before the Supplementary Estimates are brought down, I intend to go over all these matters. Although I have no particular knowledge about it, it seems to me that the request of the hon. member is fairly reasonable. I assure him that I will give it consideration.

Mr. LEMIEUX: The minister should remember that Vercheres is a historic spot. The statue of Madeleine de Vercheres is there.

Mr. CARVELL: This is a pretty cold-blooded proposition over here.

Laprairie protection works—maintenance and repairs, \$20,000.

Mr. DuTREMBLAY: Is \$20,000 enough to complete the work? Has the amount of \$85,000 voted last year been expended? As the minister will know this is a very important matter for the people of the district of Montreal and the people on the South Shore. The work has been supposed to be in progress for some years. We have been waiting for two or three years for its completion, and we should very much like to have it completed.

Mr. CARVELL: This work, I shall admit, has been progressing for a long time, and really I have had very grave doubts in past years whether the federal Parliament was justified in expending money on a work of this kind. The principle, however, has been adopted; the work is very nearly completed, and I am going to see that it is completed so far as it is necessary to complete it.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I understand the minister went there.

Mr. CARVELL: I went there, and I think I shall be my own engineer for the finishing up of this work; and I hope I shall please my hon. friends opposite and the people of that vicinity. I cannot understand why it has taken three or four years to build a dyke such as I found across the low lands at Laprairie.

Mr. LEMIEUX: The elections were postponed from year to year.

Mr. CARVELL: There may be something in that.

Mr. LEMIEUX: That is the only reason. Look elsewhere.