

Mr. LENNOX. Did these repairs become urgent owing to storms, or were they a matter of decay?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Owing to storms last winter and spring.

Mr. BLAIN. Is there anything at this wharf besides the steamers that call there?

Mr. PUGSLEY. There is a great deal of traffic. It is a very important point. In addition to the Richelieu steamers there is a steamer running from Rivière Ouelle in connection with the Intercolonial railway and which brings a great deal of traffic.

Mr. BLAIN. Is there any revenue?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, I could get the amount from the Marine Department, but no doubt it will be in the Auditor General's Report.

Mr. BLAIN. It would be a good thing for the hon. gentleman to keep before him, the amount of revenue in each case when asking for these large expenditures.

Mr. PUGSLEY. If I had that, my hon. friend might not be so inquisitive on this point. He would then want something else.

Mr. BLAIN. No, the hon. minister has always told us that he keeps in view the revenues to be derived from these wharfs. Perhaps if he would keep before him the amounts received in past years, he would be a little more economical.

Natashquan—breakwater pier on north shore of St. Lawrence—revote of \$1,960 lapsed, \$5,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is towards constructing a breakwater, 175 feet by 25, and 125 feet by 30, 18 feet of water at low spring tide. This is asked for by petition of the residents.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Is this to prevent land being washed away?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No; it is to be used as a wharf as well as a breakwater. Natashquan is some 75 miles below Esquimalt Point, and I am told the best fishing ground on the north shore.

Mr. BLAIN. Is this a new wharf?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes. There is a very large fishing establishment there. It is the terminus of the mail boats on the north shore, and can be made a good harbour.

Mr. BLAIN. Is this to be constructed to serve this large fish corporation?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is to be a harbour of refuge for the fishermen.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. How many of a population?

Mr. PUGSLEY. About 100 fishermen during the fishing season. It is in the counties of Chicoutimi and Saguenay.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Will this complete?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, it is estimated to cost \$20,000.

Mr. BLAIN. Is the representative of the county here? I would like an explanation from him.

Mr. GIRARD. Natashquan is one of the principal fishing places on the north shore, from Belle Isle up to Esquimalt Point. It has a large population during the summer, and there is a population of about six or seven hundred all the year round. Natashquan Point is the head of the mail boats from Quebec down the north shore. It has no protection at present, and when the weather is a little stormy, the boats cannot land at all, and the result is that the mails, which are sent by the boats and are carried by small boats down to Belle Isle, are delayed two or three trips, so that this wharf is required to give a chance to the whole population to get their mails regularly. There is also a local traffic, which is very important in summer. That traffic consists of the export of fish and the import of the necessary requirements for the fishing population, which amounts to many hundreds in the summer time.

Mr. BLAIN. What accommodation have the people there now?

Mr. GIRARD. There is no wharf there at all.

Mr. BLAIN. How did they get along so many years without it?

Mr. GIRARD. The boats which come there have to anchor at a great distance from the shore, and when it is a little stormy these boats cannot remain there, because there is no protection, and outside of that the small schooners, used by the fishermen are often obliged in stormy weather to cross over to Anticosti island for protection against the wind.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What is the nearest railway point?

Mr. GIRARD. It is Quebec. From Quebec down to Belle Isle there is no railway at all, and the only way of communication is by sea.

Mr. BLAIN. How is it that the minister has neglected this part so long?

Mr. GIRARD. It has been neglected since the beginning of the world, and this is the first time any government has looked after it.

Mr. SPROULE. Will this be by tender and contract?