

I have to say will shorten the debate on other matters.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steele): With the understanding that the debate will be curtailed I will allow the hon. gentleman to proceed.

Mr. LEMIEUX: There was a big storm, I think three years ago, when some sort of a tornado passed over the gulf of St. Lawrence and even swept—

Mr. McCURDY: Was it not in 1917?

Mr. LEMIEUX: I do not know as to that one. However, there was a big tornado some two or three years ago which swept all over the gulf and river of St. Lawrence and partially destroyed many of the public works. I have in mind Percé wharf which was built at a cost of \$100,000; a wharf at Cape Cove, another one at Griffin Cove, another at Fox River, and another at Grand Valley, but it had been destroyed long before. Nothing has been done to repair these wharves. I cannot blame the Government for its inaction in this respect during the war because it had to economize, and I moved in the House on various occasions to reduce the expenditure. I am still for a reduction of the expenditure, but is it wise to allow public works to continue in a dilapidated state which could be saved by a little outlay? I see that this year my hon. friend has provided an Estimate of \$34,000 for the wharf at Sandy Beach, Gaspé. Of course that is at the terminus of the railway and it is quite proper that this wharf should be repaired. Otherwise, it would certainly jeopardize the operations of the railway and the trade which finds its outlet at that point. But I would like my hon. friend in this reorganization of the engineering districts, to have an estimate prepared of the cost of repairing all these works on that coast. They cannot be replaced at the original cost—that is impossible and I do not ask it—but I am sorry to see a wharf like that at Percé, for instance, cut in two and absolutely useless for navigation purposes. I would like to see my hon. friend during the summer send his new district engineers to that coast and have them prepare an estimate of the cost of the repairs needed, so as to save what remains of the public works there. That was the object of my rising, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for your courtesy.

Mr. McCURDY: The discussion is out of order, but perhaps the committee will bear with me while I say a word or two

in reply to the questions which have been asked by the four hon. gentlemen who have just spoken. There are detailed reports in the department of all these various and numerous works located along the coast, and I can assure my hon. friend that one is embarrassed—knowing the small amount of money that is available—with the magnitude of the demands even for repairs. Supplementary Estimates will probably be tabled on Monday, and it will be found that some little provision is being made for most necessary work. Even so, however, there are other works on which an expenditure of money would certainly do much towards saving property, and affording better facilities to districts which depend largely on water transportation for connection with those communities with which they do business. But my hon. friend from Gaspé only a month ago advised us that what the country demands is the strictest possible economy.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Hear, hear.

Mr. McCURDY: And I am going to ask the committee to patiently receive the small appropriations for these repair works, necessary as they are. My hon. friend from Guysborough made a general statement which, like many general statements, is a little misleading. He says that of all Government expenditures since the formation of Union Government nothing has found its way into eastern Nova Scotia.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): Very little.

Mr. McCURDY: Surely my hon. friend knows that millions have been spent in Cape Breton and in Pictou county. Surely he is aware of the construction of ships at New Glasgow on Government account, and he knows something about the operations of the ship plate mills at Sydney.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): Public works.

Mr. McCURDY: My hon. friend used the term public expenditure. However, some of the preceding discussion was out of order and I will not refer further to it. My hon. friend from Cape Breton North and Victoria has been misinformed regarding repairs to the breakwater at Ingonish. To my knowledge no contract was ever given for repairs to that breakwater. It is true tenders were advertised for, but nothing satisfactory was received, and I really think there are other places along our coasts where \$22,000 in repairs