

Mr. SINCLAIR: I was a little puzzled over the minister's statement in regard to this expenditure. He said the bar was dug in the other channel. I cannot understand how the digging of a bar in the other channel would bring more water into this channel which we are going to fill. Of course, I do not understand the geography of the district, and consequently I would not venture to make any criticism on that point. The minister led us to believe that a bar had been dredged from some channel in the harbour, and the water came in and destroyed the wharves. Now he proposes to fill a place where no bar was ever dug.

Mr. HAZEN: No, my hon. friend is mistaken.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Altogether apart from that, this is a new work. The minister will remember there was a very distinct understanding that no new works would be undertaken at the present time. Many new works throughout Canada have been discontinued on account of the war. It was understood that the works which were cut out of the estimates should have first place after the Government resumed the construction of new works. This improvement means an expenditure of about three-quarters of a million dollars, and I think we should not embark on it at the present time. There is a great deal in what my hon. friend from Pictou has said to the effect that we require all the sinews of war we can get for the purpose of carrying on our part in this great conflict, and that we should not ask people to contribute money to a work of this kind which has been advocated for, I think the minister said the other night, forty years. If the people have been able to do without it that long, I do not see any reason why it should be gone on with now. We are asking the people to buy post office bonds amounting to \$25—notices are published throughout the country asking the women and children to save their money and invest it in those war bonds, and women in isolated places are saving all the money they get for their eggs and chickens until they can accumulate \$25 which they will invest in a war bond. We are now proposing to spend 10,000 of these war bonds in order to give the minister sufficient money to build a breakwater in St. John harbour. He is asking a quarter of a million dollars now, but he will want three-quarters of a million before he gets through with the work. I wish to enter my protest against this item.

Administration of Justice—Yukon Territory
—Allowance to John Black for performing
[Mr. Nesbitt.]

duties of judge of the Territorial Court for 16½ months, \$687.50.

Mr. OLIVER: Perhaps the minister would give a short statement as to the origin of this somewhat peculiar item.

Mr. DOHERTY: Mr. Black is clerk of the Yukon Territorial Court, and legal adviser to the commission. For two periods during which Mr. Justice Macaulay, who is the only judge in the district, was absent on leave, Mr. Black was appointed acting judge and performed the duties of the judge. These two different periods together covered sixteen and a half months. It is proposed to allow him the difference of \$41.66 per month, between his actual salary in the office which he permanently holds, and the judge's salary. It was thought fair and equitable to allow him this for taking on these additional and heavier duties during the absence of the judge.

Mr. NESBITT: Will the minister tell us how much Mr. Black has drawing from his own position at the same time.

Mr. DOHERTY: The judge's salary is \$5,000 a year. The monthly difference between that and the clerk's salary is \$41.66, so that it would be just a matter of calculation to determine his salary.

Mr. CARVELL: Is not Mr. Black Commissioner to the Yukon?

Mr. DOHERTY: No, he is the Clerk of the Yukon Territorial Court and legal adviser to the commission.

Mr. MACDONALD: There are less than 9,000 people in the Yukon and it costs us about \$1,000,000 to look after them. With all due deference to the gentleman who may be holding the office of judge, I cannot accept the proposition that we should spend any more money there under present conditions.

Mr. DOHERTY: I am not in a position to say just what the administration of the Yukon costs as a whole. At the same time we are only dealing with this item of \$687.50, which I consider a reasonable allowance to this gentleman for taking on those additional duties during the absence of Mr. Justice Macaulay. I think we could hardly be taxed with extravagance for recognizing this absolutely reasonable claim under the circumstances.

Mr. NESBITT: Will the minister tell us what Mr. Justice Macaulay was doing during those sixteen months? Was he on a holiday?