

the few hundreds of thousand dollars expended to connect the Canadian National with Three Rivers, would be amply compensated by the additional revenue received. For the information of the government, I wish to state that the yearly returns of the Canadian Pacific Railway, at Three Rivers, amount to \$10,000,000. I want to further add that the Liberal government made a start in connection with linking Three Rivers with the Canadian National, that millions of dollars were expended at Shawinigan Falls, and that furthermore millions of dollars were voted to build wharves in Three Rivers, in this connection. I wish to inquire from the hon. gentleman whether, from the \$20,000,000 we are asked to vote, the government intends to carry out any of these necessary undertakings in order to complete this branch line? I should very much like, if possible, to hear from the Minister on this subject.

No reply being made to this second inquiry, I now wish to ask the Prime Minister or the Minister of Marine, whether the government intends to remove the reef which lies opposite the wharf at Ste. Angèle. Between Three Rivers and Ste. Angèle, is to be found the only convenient crossing on the St. Lawrence river in the stretch between Levis and Sorel. In the public interest, in the interest of the counties between Quebec and Montreal this reef should be removed and I wish therefore to inquire from the Minister of Marine what the government intends doing in this connection.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): I think, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Bettez) should give notice of such a question. I have not yet fathomed the depths of the whole St. Lawrence so as to be in a position to answer, on the spur of the moment, a question of such a purport. I am wondering whether the work the hon. member refers to is within the scope of the Minister of Marine or whether they are under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Public Works. I hope the hon. member will follow the regular routine in asking questions, and we shall answer them.

Mr. BETTEZ (Translation): I read in the newspapers that the hon. Minister of Marine had gone on a tour of inspection from Montreal to Quebec, and I thought that he necessarily passed through Three Rivers to reach Quebec.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): I made no soundings at Ste. Angèle, I can assure the hon. member for Three Rivers, of this.

Mr. BETTEZ (Translation): I also wish to inquire whether the government has the intention to subsidize the schools with reference to the paper industry? As most of the members know, there is in Three Rivers a school in connection with this industry, the only one of its kind in this country. Up to these last years the government subsidized technical schools; as it is the intention to enlarge this school, I would like to inquire whether, from the amount of \$20,000,000 we are, at present, asked to vote, the city of Three Rivers and the Technical commission of which I am a member can expect to receive a fixed amount.

Mr. BLAIR: Mr. Chairman, I think the people of this country will take serious exception to voting this money without their having some knowledge of how it is to be expended. We feel that such a practice is wrong in principle. The people who vote the money should have some control over the expenditure. The tendency with some people to-day seems to be to separate the payer from the controller. That is entirely wrong in principle, but it seems that in many departments that method has been adopted. We could entrust this money to this government with some degree of assurance that it would be honestly and fairly expended, but to entrust it to the hands of people over whom we have no control and over whose expenditures we would have no supervision is something to which I think the people in the rural districts will take strong objection.

In the district which I represent are a great many comparatively poor farmers. Many farms are being sold for tax purposes. The farmers are in extreme need, and I think that while a vote of this kind might help to relieve unemployment, the people in the rural districts will take very serious objection unless they know how the money is to be expended before it is voted.

We would not like to see this money placed in the hands of the premier of the province of Ontario, the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson; I am not speaking of the other provincial premiers. In the last election we thought that it was very untimely and out of place for the Ontario government to be interfering in dominion affairs. We also found that there was a close relationship between the contracts awarded by the Ontario government and the election campaign. We never made it a practice to ask any person who was working on the highway to vote for us. If we wanted to ask them to vote for us, we had to go to them quietly at night, like Nicodemus. We