

In the harbour of Bathurst the department has a dredge boat. She has been lying idle there for three years. In the 1930 session there was sufficient money voted to enable that boat to continue dredging Bathurst harbour. The fact is, however, that this dredge has remained idle since 1930, and I think I can safely say that it is rotting at the wharf because no repairs have been made, and there is only a man or two looking after the boat as watchmen. Bathurst harbour since that time has partially filled up, to such an extent that the great industry we have there, the pulp mill, is hampered in its work. Bathurst harbour has flowing into it four rivers—the Little river, the Nipisiguit, the Middle and the Tetagouche. The sediment or silt coming down from these four rivers is continually forming a bank about a mile and a quarter within the entrance of the harbour, and to-day there is not sufficient water on that bar to allow a vessel of any large tonnage, such as used to come in in the past, to come in and load or unload. We have quite a lumbering industry in the surrounding districts, and the lumber for the English market is shipped by water through Bathurst harbour. If we are unable to ship to Bathurst harbour we have to ship by rail to St. John, two or three hundred miles by rail, and then by water across the Atlantic. This dredge is lying idle in Bathurst harbour and I would ask the minister to take note of the conditions I have brought to his attention and to see if some part of the general vote for dredging in the province of New Brunswick cannot be utilized to dredge this bar or that part of the harbour that needs to be dredged. Let the minister apply to his colleague the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) who was given a very fine reception last summer by the people of Bathurst. It happened to be my son, Dr. Veniot, who was mayor of the city at that time and received the Minister of Marine. The minister was given a very warm reception and I know that he was well pleased with the reception Bathurst accorded him, but he could not bring his own steamer into the harbour of Bathurst, a port into which a few years ago vessels drawing twenty-two to twenty-four feet of water had no difficulty entering, but to-day you could not bring a boat into that harbour drawing seventeen feet of water. The Minister of Marine at that time obtained information from the business people of Bathurst, and I understand he promised to report his findings to the Minister of Public Works. I hope the Minister of Public Works will take note of this matter.

Let me draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to another matter. Farm-
[Mr. Veniot.]

ing and lumbering in the lower section of Gloucester county, especially in the parish of Saumarez is almost a thing of the past. We have had no lumber mills in operation there for the past five or six years. There is a small mill starting up this winter. The people in that section in the past used to devote their time and energies to lumbering and fishing. Tracadie harbour, in the parish of Saumarez, had fairly good water, but the channel to the harbour was impassable because with every northeast gale or northwest storm the channel would change. Accordingly a recommendation was made to the government to dredge a new channel and build a breakwater to help out the fishermen. The government has spent about \$175,000 in the construction of this breakwater preparatory to the opening of the new channel. The money was voted in 1930. I think about \$50,000 or \$55,000 was voted to enable the contract to be let, and tenders were called for. During the time of the previous government and under the present government about \$175,000 has been spent on the contract so far. The work has been carried on and completed, but the channel still remains blocked. There is a dredge in that harbour. They started to dredge from the village side to the opposite beach to the west. The dredge started its operations in 1930 and continued them until the fall, when the work was stopped. That dredge is now tied up to the wharf and is rotting at the wharfside, and here we are paying wharfage, and nothing has been done since. When the general vote for dredging in the province of New Brunswick was up last year I asked the minister if any part of that vote would be devoted to continuing the dredging in Tracadie harbour. It would not take a great sum of money to finish this work. The greater part of the dredging inside has been done unless it has filled in again within the last few years. The greater part of the work now to be done is to cut through to the beach, and the suction dredge which is now in Tracadie harbour could very readily do this. I am sure that it could be accomplished in two months. If this work were done it would give an opportunity to a large number of people who are now on the dole to earn their living, and it would establish in that section of Gloucester county one of the finest fishing industries in the maritimes. I wish the minister to note that.

I will not take up the time of the committee further, but I do wish to point out to the minister once more, and to impress upon