

Mr. FISHER. No, by days work.

Mr. FOWLER. What was the original cost of the wharf you are repairing?

Mr. FISHER. I have not got the details.

Mr. FOWLER. My instructions are the total amount expended on this wharf from 1839, when the wharf was begun, to the present would not amount to \$8,300. And now it is proposed to expend a similar amount. This is really a new work, and as such is one that may well be let by contract. So far as days work is concerned, my own opinion is that there are many instances where that is the only way you can do the work properly. The whole thing depends on the honesty of the men in charge, but there are even repair jobs which might be done by contract; and wherever possible, I think the government should do the work that way. The great majority of repair jobs can only be done by days work because when you come to repair an old wharf, you do not know exactly how much you may have to do.

Mr. FISHER. That is the trouble.

Inverness (Broad cove) mines—harbour improvements, \$10,000.

Mr. BARKER. Have these harbour works been transferred to the government?

Mr. FISHER. Not yet, but we do not propose to do any work on them until they are. An arrangement is about being completed for their transfer.

Mr. BARKER. This has become a very old story. We have had it ever since 1905. We were told in 1905 that the government expected to have a transfer of these works and were going to expend \$10,000 on them; but at that time Mr. Brodeur, who was then minister, said the vote was for the extension of the harbour works, and the member for the county (Mr. McLennan) was good enough to inform us that the work to be done was simply placing brush and stone for the protection of the entrance of the harbour, and they apparently wanted for that \$10,000. But in 1906, the succeeding Minister of Public Works (Mr. Hyman), wanted that \$10,000 revoted, but not for the extension of the works at all. What he wanted it for was for repairs. He was going to spend \$10,000 in repairs on works already in existence and not for brush and stone. Now we come to the present acting minister (Mr. Fisher), and he wants the \$10,000 for improvements. But if we are giving \$10,000 here and there along this coast, the minister or the acting minister should know what he wants the money for. First we had three years ago a demand for \$10,000 to be used for the extension of the harbour. Then he wanted that same \$10,000 to repair the works already in existence. And now we want it for improvements. It strikes

Mr. FOWLER.

me that if the department does not know what it wants the money for, it had better postpone the expenditure three or four years longer. We have got on very well for three years without spending that money, why not wait a little longer? I would ask the member for the county (Mr. McLennan) why this expenditure has been put off until next year. I suppose we are going to have an election then, and I would like to know whether the hon. gentleman has requested the government to postpone this expenditure from time to time until an election is certain, and does he propose to have \$10,000 expended next year on day labour?

Mr. MCLENNAN. The member for the county has not made any such request to the government.

Mr. FISHER. The member for the county has been very keen indeed about getting an arrangement completed with the owners of this harbour for its transfer to the government. I am not very familiar with what occurred several years ago but I can tell the hon. gentleman what the situation is at present? The harbour is in the hands of Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann. They own certain wharfs and foreshores. We wish to acquire the rights of McKenzie and Mann so as to make this a public harbour. The arrangement now is pretty nearly but not absolutely completed. We are to pay them \$3,500 for their rights.

Mr. BARKER. We were told that the company offered it free.

Mr. MCLENNAN. They did nothing of the kind.

Mr. FISHER. There is no knowledge of that in the department. If we acquire their rights, we shall then have to make some repairs to the wharfs. If we do not get their rights, we will not do any work. The reason this money was not spent last year was that the arrangement was not completed, and until it is nothing will be spent; but if an arrangement is completed satisfactory to the department, the work will go on, and out of this \$10,000 a sum sufficient to purchase the rights of McKenzie and Mann will be used and the rest go to repairs.

Mr. BARKER. I understand that the Inverness Railway and Coal Company are the only people who use these works. If they can use them three years in their present condition, the government had better leave them alone and not pay \$3,500 and then \$10,000 in repairs.

Mr. MCLENNAN. They are not using the harbour.

Mr. BARKER. Who are using it?

Mr. MCLENNAN. Nobody, it is unfit for use. The company allowed the works to go into desuetude. The entrance is out of