

quite a prosperous community, and the wharf was partly destroyed during a storm which occurred a month or two ago. Four of five times a week the boats from Vancouver pass within a couple of hundred yards of this wharf, but they cannot stop there; they must go to the wharf at Wilson Creek, which belongs to the Union Steamship Company. This is several miles from Robert's Creek, and these people must pay wharfage on any goods handled over that wharf. This puts them at a very great disadvantage. During the summer time a number of boy scouts and girl scouts and other societies go to that district for their summer holidays. I consider that this is an emergency work and on behalf of the people I appeal to the minister to restore this utility.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): A small expenditure was made at this point last year. My hon. friend's request has been placed upon the list of those items for consideration in connection with expenditures under this vote. I may say to my hon. friend that the list of requests very much exceeds the total amount of this vote, so we will just have to do the best we can.

Mr. MUNN: I have no doubt of that, but this is an extreme case.

Mr. ELLIOTT: In 1930-31 the general vote for Ontario was \$85,000, whereas for this year it is \$200,000; the vote for Nova Scotia in 1930-31 was \$100,000 as compared with \$200,000 for this year; the vote for New Brunswick was \$60,000 as against \$125,000 and for British Columbia, \$75,000 as against \$100,000. In this last instance the increase is only one-third whereas in the case of Quebec there was an increase from \$100,000 to \$400,000, or three hundred per cent. Is there any rule to govern in arriving at this vote, or does the minister just jump at it?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The present Minister of Public Works does not jump at anything any more than did the former minister.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I am afraid he does not jump as much.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): He endeavours to exercise the best intelligence he has, assisted by the advice of his officials, considering at all times the amount of money placed at his disposal.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The basis of my objection to this item is that the works performed under it are not submitted to the house. Can the

minister give any reason why in some cases this vote has been increased to four times what it was, whereas in other cases it has been increased only by one-third?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): For instance, we had information that Nova Scotia had suffered from severe storms. We are asking the district engineer to make reports and give us an estimate of what is required. The estimates are based upon the information we receive. Although the information is the best obtainable, it must necessarily follow that no rule of thumb or any other rule can be applied to the fixing of estimates. I would point out to my hon. friend that he increased his general vote from \$75,000 to \$100,000; perhaps he will tell me what principle he employed.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Does the minister mean that these items are to cover repairs which were rendered necessary prior to the vote being passed?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Not altogether. They are based upon our experience from year to year as to what is required. Some years we have to defer to the next certain works which should be but are not done. Last year we had to do this, and it will probably have to be done this year.

Mr. REID: Is it the intention of the department to complete the new channel prior to the beginning of the freshets? Has the minister any information as to the silting up of the old channel which may interfere with shipping on the river?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): We are doing our best to complete the channel. As my hon. friend probably knows, a double shift is working on the dredge and we hope to complete the channel before the freshets arrive.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I gather from the minister that he is including in this general vote the amounts required to make repairs rendered necessary by conditions which have already arisen. Is it his usual practice to include in this special vote repairs rendered necessary before the estimates are prepared? I understood him to say that the total had to be estimated in order to provide for contingencies which might arise because of storms during the year and I should like to know if he expects that the storms will increase three hundred per cent in some provinces and only thirty three and a third per cent in others?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): My hon. friend knows very well that that is not the basis upon which this estimate is made. I have told him that there is no principle as to storms or anything else upon which we can