

used to do in connection with these estimates I would put the same questions as I have put in regard to Becancour with reference to all these other items covering more than two pages, and I would detain the minister here until very late. Apart from the other objections which I mentioned before the committee rose at six o'clock, I have no desire to do that, and the question suggests itself to me as to whether there would be some easier way of going through these estimates of the province of Quebec, because I cannot assert some things here in the absence of those representing the counties, because what I might say would be open to objection and might very well be corrected if they were here. These two pages of the estimates involve an expenditure of nearly three quarters of a million and, as my hon. friend will admit, lay the foundation for a very much larger expenditure indeed, because many of these undertakings are really beginnings. I do not know if the suggestion I am going to make to my hon. friend and the committee is an acceptable one, because we have sitting now for the last time the very important committee on race track betting, we had all agreed to be there, and it was quite unexpectedly that I was called down here. Does the minister think he could lay upon the table a short statement which might be placed in 'Hansard' giving answers to the questions that are usually put in connection with these estimates, that is, the date and the amount, the original estimate of the work for which he asks a vote, the amount of the original contract, the name of the contractors, the tenders if called for, when tenders were called for, if called for in the public papers, the expenditure to date, the amount required to finish the work, the revenue received last year, and the amount expended for maintenance last year. All the questions that could be put in this committee, constituted as it is this evening, could not go beyond that. We have to take up the time and employ the whole paraphernalia of the House to elicit answers to these questions. It seems to me that if the minister could reserve one of these Quebec items, and at some future sitting of the committee lay that statement on the table of the House and place it in 'Hansard' I would be perfectly satisfied, and I think it would greatly abridge the work of the committee and of my hon. friend. There are two items in these estimates for Quebec to which I would like to direct my hon. friend's attention. One is an item of \$60,000 for improvements on the Richelieu river. That is a considerable item, and it will require some discussion. There is a further item for a deep water wharf at Sorel, for which \$86,000 was voted last year, and for which \$42,000 is asked this year. As my hon. friend is no doubt aware

that wharf was built and slipped into the river, we are building it over.

Mr. PUGSLEY. In a different way.

Mr. MONK. Yes. It seems a pity not to go a little into the discussion of these two items. In regard to the others my hon. friend will see that there could be no other questions asked than those I have jotted down in this memorandum. As my hon. friend is not familiar with the province I might be tempted to extend the discussion unduly. The members who represent these counties are not here. I make these suggestions with the desire of abridging the work of the committee and not taking up my hon. friend's time. If this suggestion is practicable, I would not take up the time of the minister and of the committee by asking the self same questions on each item.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I do not think it is proper to accept the suggestion of my hon. friend with regard to the province of Quebec; I think we should have the same rule as to public works in all the provinces. I think it is a good deal of benefit to discuss items; I receive benefit myself from criticisms by both sides of the House. These gentlemen who are familiar with the public work under review are able to advance arguments in favour of it when criticism is offered. There is the other objection also that the suggestion would mean the postponement of the items for Quebec, because so long as one item stands the resolution cannot be adopted and we are not much further ahead. I am desirous of going on with the Quebec items to-night, because I informed the members from Quebec these items would be under discussion, as I informed other hon. gentlemen that Quebec, Manitoba, and British Columbia items would probably take up the time of the committee. I am sorry my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) has to go to the race track committee.

Mr. MONK. I have made the suggestion for the convenience of the minister and the committee. This is the last meeting of that committee, we all agreed to be there and I really must attend.

Mr. PUGSLEY. If there is any particular item my hon. friend will wish to discuss he could do so on the vote for the dredging plant in Ontario or Quebec.

Mr. MONK. My suggestion was with the idea of facilitating the passing of the estimates and not to delay them.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Very well, then we will go on with the Quebec items.

Cabano—landing pier on west side of Lake Temiscouata, \$3,500.