

its provisions. The members for the county and I, myself, have not been able to answer the questions put us by parties interested in St. John with reference to this project; and gentlemen here representing the wharf owners, until a day or two ago, had no idea of its character. They were never consulted as to the project which the Government have carried out and which must materially affect their interests. The people in St. John interested in this measure—which is of the character of a private Bill—should have had an opportunity of forming and expressing an opinion upon it. They regard the clandestine project with alarm. Fully two-thirds of the whole harbor of St. John, on the east side, on which nearly all our deep-watered wharves are settled, is the property of private individuals. In the lower part of the harbor the Government have erected large wharves, and further up the Corporation have some deep-water wharves. Then we come to the Custom House wharf, from which, up to Rodden's wharf and Rankin's wharf, at the head of the harbor, the whole property is private, except one or two properties owned by the Corporation. The value of this private property will be very seriously affected by our proposed legislation. Harbor Commissioners, as might be expected, would regulate the business of the harbor from the private wharves to those under their control. I believe that representatives of those private owners are here at present to ask either that this matter be postponed, so that the wishes of the people may be fairly expressed upon it, or that at all events due regard be had to their private interests. They urge that if this measure is to be passed against their strongest remonstrances and despite their serious apprehensions, that the Commissioners be required to take over this private property again at a fair and reasonable value, to be determined by any proper mode the House may choose to adopt. I think that is but a reasonable demand, but it is more reasonable to ask that the whole matter should stand over till the people of St. John have had an opportunity of pronouncing upon it, when, next year, Parliament, if so disposed might carry out the well-understood wishes of the people, and not the wishes of some parties working for purposes not understood by those whom they pretend to represent.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Will the hon. gentleman explain the present position of the harbor?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The second resolution is the money clause. The harbor of St. John belongs to the city by the charter given to it years ago. Some of the wharves belong to private individuals who own them, or the land on which they have been built, and for which they pay to the city a yearly rent. The proposal is that the property belonging to the city shall be transferred to the Harbor Commissioners. That property has a revenue of between \$30,000 and \$33,000 a year.

Mr. ANGLIN. Do you include in that what are known as harbor dues?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes; and the revenue from the fisheries belonging to the city. The proposition is that the Government should advance to that trust, as they have done in Montreal for the deepening of the channel, and in Quebec for the graving dock, say \$500,000 to the Harbor Commissioners, at 4 per cent. to pay for that property, and they will raise besides \$20,000 at the same rate to go on with the improvements of the harbor. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat seems to think this is a new scheme of which the citizens of St. John know nothing; that it has been decided by a corner meeting. This, on the contrary, is a project that has been before the city of St. John since 1874. The hon. gentleman says that there have been no complaints there, and that no improvements are required. I do not know where the hon. gentleman has been during that time, but I know that when

Mr. ANGLIN.

I went to St. John, the citizens of both parties were unanimous in declaring that large improvements were required. He knows perfectly well that the Dominion Government have made large expenditures for the breakwater at Negro Point. The people of St. John held that it was a Dominion work, being for the protection of an important harbor; but, on the other hand, as spirited men who know they should help themselves, as well as call upon the Government to help them, that other improvements were required which they should aid in making, therefore, they said: "Let us have a property on which we can obtain money, and we will administer this property." I am astonished that an hon. gentleman hailing from St. John should have objected to that scheme. The hon. gentleman says we must not trust the Council of St. John. I am surprised that he will not trust the people of St. John who have elected that Council, which we must suppose, having been elected by the people, has their confidence, and will not use their money in any other way than that provided by law. The hon. gentleman, who understands constitutional principles, must know that if we purchase that property from the city, we have no conditions to make as to the disposal of the money, which is theirs once we have paid it to the city. I think the scheme is a good one. It will enable the Harbor Commission to make the necessary improvements to the harbor, and, on the other hand, the Government will be safe, because, by the provisions of the Bill, the Government will take care that the revenues of the harbor, after the expenditure connected with its collection, are forthcoming to pay the interest. The hon. gentleman says we must be careful not to interfere with private property. We are not taking private property. The revenues coming into the city from it, and due to the city, are to be transferred to the Commission, as well as the property of the harbor; but without reference at all to the complete acceptance of the property belonging to private individuals, the question whether we should provide for the purchase of that property *volens volens* from the proprietors of those lots is a different question. We have provided in the Bill in the first instance, that the Commission may purchase these private properties after coming to an arrangement with the proprietors. The question now is whether we should go a step further, and give the Commission the right to purchase the property, as the hon. gentleman suggests, whether the owners are willing to sell or not. That question will be decided when we come to the second reading of the Bill. I am informed that the local Act of the New Brunswick Legislature provides that the money shall be applied to pay the debt of the city, therefore the hon. gentleman's fears must entirely disappear. On the one hand, the money will be paid to the city, and the law of New Brunswick says what the City Council shall do with that money.

Mr. ANGLIN. Will the hon. Minister tell us what improvements are to be made that will cost \$250,000.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The Harbor Commission, after being incorporated, will decide what the improvements shall be. It is not for us to prescribe what improvements the Commission shall make. The hon. gentleman will see that if the Commission desires to purchase property they will have to secure the sanction of the Governor in Council.

Mr. MACKENZIE. The Bill [regulating the Harbor Commission at Quebec provides that no works can be undertaken without the approval of the Government.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. gentleman is correct as to the large docks at the mouth of the River St. Charles, and the graving dock on the side of the harbor.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I think the same provision ought to be here. The hon. gentleman should have given the House some statement of what was to be done with the money.