

relate to the dignity of the hon. gentleman as a member. If the hon. member wishes to answer the hon. member for Shefford he will have a chance to do so under a different item.

Mr. POULIOT: Then I will pay no more attention to the remarks of the hon. member for Shefford; I will eulogize the Minister of Public Works instead. There was a dirty robber—

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. POULIOT: —who was foreman in one part of Témiscouata county. He padded the pay-rolls and stole government money. I was the watchdog of the treasury; I notified the Minister of Public Works, who did his duty as a minister of the crown and forced the man to pay back the money. That same man was indulging in joy rides at the expense of the government; on Sundays he would drive for miles and miles with his family. The Minister of Public Works put a stop to that and I praise him for it. This is how I waste the time of the house. Not only that—

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member must speak to the item; he knows the rules.

Mr. POULIOT: I am speaking with regard to public works in the province of Quebec.

The CHAIRMAN: My hon. friend's remarks must be directed to the item under discussion.

Mr. POULIOT: I do not blame the minister, but I blame the contractors for putting inferior timber in that wharf. At my request the minister forced the contractors to replace them with stone.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must speak to the item under discussion.

Mr. POULIOT: I am sorry I cannot pay compliments to the minister when I wish; it shows my broadmindedness.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must comply with the rules.

Mr. POULIOT: I want to be nice and I cannot.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If there are facts to be stated, why cannot the hon. member state them?

The CHAIRMAN: They do not apply to the item.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I do not see why an hon. member should be run off simply because he is stating unpleasant truths.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: this item of \$400,000 refers to the whole province of Quebec and I could speak about Cacouna or any other place in the province.

The CHAIRMAN: As far as harbours and rivers are concerned, but not post offices.

Mr. POULIOT: I am not speaking about post offices, I am speaking about a wharf; it is spelled w-h-a-r-f and the plural is spelled w-h-a-r-v-e-s. You know, Mr. Chairman, how all times I respect the rules of the house, especially when you are in the chair. I would not do the least thing against the least rule of the house.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no doubt about that, but the hon. member rose to a question of privilege when there is no privilege.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Remain on the wharf.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Stay on the dock.

Mr. POULIOT: Thanks are due to the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Motherwell) who has made such a good point. This item of \$400,000 covers the whole of the province of Quebec, not only the lands bordering the sea, but the sea itself. I want to know that things are being properly done in my constituency. I am not concerned with what happens somewhere else except when I am provoked. I have to render an account of what I have done; I have to defend the people's pocket-book, especially the people in the county of Témiscouata. It is only proper that the hon. members for Shefford and Compton should know about this. Cement was required for the wharf at Trois Pistoles, and before the election of 1930 I asked the department to give instructions that the cement should be purchased from the two stores at Trois Pistoles. This cement was purchased at the regular price, but after the change in government other cement was sent from Rivière du Loup. The cost of this cement was three times that which had been purchased in Trois Pistoles and the department was charged with the cost of transportation from Rivière du Loup. In order to protect the Canadian exchequer, I protested against this transaction. As the result, the quotations for the cement were lowered and I think the merchant was told to sell the cement at five cents less than the previous price as well as to pay the transportation charges. That merchant also had to pay a commission to the dealers in Trois Pistoles.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): That is patronage.