

Mr. DURANLEAU: When?

Mr. NEILL: This last November. If the minister does not know, I know; he did.

Mr. DURANLEAU: Why ask, then?

Mr. NEILL: He was also a mail contractor and provincial road foreman. There was a good deal of local unemployment there and men were, I will not say glad, because no one is glad to work at such low rates, but at any rate compelled to be glad, if I might put it that way, to take \$2.80 a day and work on relief on roads, without board. I protest against this fat contract being awarded a professional jobster without competition. That is not the way to help unemployment there or anywhere else; certainly it is not my way. It may be the government's way, or the way of Mr. Graham and his satellites, but every one of these actions is a cheque drawn on the bank of vengeance, a draft drawn on the account of retaliation, and they must all be paid with interest on election day. There is one thing else I want to say. Patronage is dynamite in anyone's hands but it is doubly fatal when it becomes a personal attribute, used not even for the benefit of the party, not for the weal of the public, but against all those principles of fairness as between man and man, which have governed men's relations with one another ever since we emerged from the stone age. Patronage, I say, is doubly fatal when used in that way, and that is the way it has been used in this and other instances. I understand that there were some leftovers, lumber, nails and other materials, from this contract, the materials having been supplied by the government. What disposition has been made of those leftovers, and would it be in order if they were given to the contractor?

Mr. DURANLEAU: This contractor employed local men and it was the desire of that locality that local men should be given the work. They employed one man at \$5 a day for 27 days and four men at \$4 a day for 27 days. That was why no tenders were called for for this small job, after the estimate had been made by the officials of my department. Mr. McDonald is a first class—

Mr. NEILL: Politician.

Mr. DURANLEAU: —builder of wooden bridges, and we wanted local men put on the job.

Mr. NEILL: You could have asked for competition.

Mr. DURANLEAU: As regards the materials, I cannot give information but I suppose

that such materials as were not used should be returned to the department.

Mr. NEILL: They will be?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I suppose they will—

Mr. NEILL: They should be.

Mr. DURANLEAU: —but I am not sure. There is a distance of four thousand miles separating Ottawa from the Pacific coast and we have to rely on the agent, who has a first class reputation there.

Mr. NEILL: If there is anything left over it will be returned?

Mr. DURANLEAU: If any part of the material we supplied has not been used in the construction there is no doubt it will be returned to the department.

Mr. POULIOT: Will these estimates be taken up again to-night?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Are there not some private bills?

Mr. POULIOT: After the hour for private bills.

Mr. DURANLEAU: I do not know; I hope so.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The boss is not here.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

### After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ross): When the committee rose at six o'clock we were considering item No. 137 "Life saving service, including rewards for saving life, \$50,000."

Item agreed to.

Hydrographic and tidal and current surveys, and to provide for the maintenance and repair of hydrographic steamers, \$464,000.

Mr. CASGRAIN: How much was expended for hydrographic and tidal and current surveys and how much to provide for maintenance and repairs of hydrographic steamers? In this item there is a decrease of \$4,000, but covering two distinct operations.

Mr. DURANLEAU: The expenses are not separated.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Where were these surveys made last year and what is the program for this year?