

On section 2—\$5,000,000 may be advanced to harbour commissioners for terminal facilities.

Mr. CALDWELL: I presume, of course, this bill will pass the House. In discussing the resolution a few days ago, I opposed this advance, not because I did not think the port of Quebec should be developed, but for the purpose of getting from the government a statement of their policy with regard to sending traffic through the port of Quebec. I think before this bill finally passes, the government should give us some assurance that they mean to have the freight rates so adjusted on the Transcontinental that traffic will come to the port of Quebec, and that the facilities to be provided there will be used. I think that is one of the most vital points ahead of us in this matter. While I realize that a discussion of freight rates cannot properly come under this bill, and I do not propose to discuss them here, I would like to have some assurance from the government that they are not going to build harbour facilities at Quebec, and then allow traffic to go by that port to Montreal.

Mr. CARDIN: My hon. friend will easily realize that we cannot state definitely what the position and intentions of the government are with respect to this matter. As I said the other day when the resolution was before the committee, that we have decided to make a loan to the port of Quebec of such a large amount for extending the present facilities and developing new ones, is evidence that the government proposes to do everything possible to help develop traffic to the port of Quebec.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not wish altogether to oppose this vote, but at the same time it does seem to me rather poor policy to spend this amount of money at the present time. I do not think that the port of Quebec, according to the statistics which were given to us, is calling for any further development at present. Why, the total revenue that comes to the port of Quebec at the present time would not pay even the interest on the present indebtedness of the port to this government, and yet we are loaning them another \$5,000,000. It does seem to me poor business to continue to develop our ports more rapidly than the commerce and traffic of the country warrants. I can readily understand that if the railway running to Quebec is going to be utilized, the port of Quebec might need further development, but we have no assurance from the government that that is going

to be done. It would seem to me that before Quebec harbour is further developed, we should see some sign of greater traffic coming, and at least some sign that the port is going to be used. I see no need of spending a further \$5,000,000 on a harbour that is not already being utilized to its fullest capacity, and one that cannot even pay the interest on its own indebtedness. To spend a further \$5,000,000 there simply means that the port is going to run further in the hole. I for one am opposed to any further expenditure that is not going to bring in any further revenue.

Mr. COOTE: When the resolution preceding this bill was being discussed, I wished to ask the minister just what works it was proposed to build with this \$5,000,000. I did not succeed in putting that question, and I would like the minister to be good enough to advise the House now of all the work that he proposes to do with this \$5,000,000.

Mr. CARDIN: The first item of the proposed expenditure will be dredging, which will cost \$1,500,000; the building of a new wharf, \$2,800,000; reconstruction of tracks on this new wharf, \$125,000, estimated. electric light, \$3,000; roadways, \$65,000; riprap, \$70,000; water mains for the water supply on the wharf, \$150,000.

Mr. COOTE: How much of this construction is contemplated this year?

Mr. CARDIN: It is very hard to say, but the execution of the whole programme will certainly take five years.

Mr. CALDWELL: What will the whole programme cost?

Mr. CARDIN: Five million dollars.

Mr. CALDWELL: Is it estimated that this \$5,000,000 will complete the whole five year programme?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. CALDWELL: Then we are voting \$5,000,000 this year?

Mr. LAPOINTE: No.

Mr. CALDWELL: Will the minister just explain why he is bringing in a bill to loan \$5,000,000?

Mr. CARDIN: We are asking permission to loan the harbour commission the sum of \$5,000,000 to cover a period of years, and we will advance the money as the work is proceeded with. We are not going to loan the \$5,000,000 this year. Advances will be made as the work proceeds, and every advance will