

channel with sand and that in fact in bad weather it is likely to be washed away entirely. I rise, not for the purpose of objecting to improvements, but to put on record that objection to the manner in which the work is being done. Some years ago I understand a stone breakwater was begun some distance below, but that did not suit a local politician, by the name of Sperry, and he has got the work put near his own place of business. If the work were constructed where the stone breakwater was begun, it would be effective, but the work now going on will be ineffective.

Mr. FISHER. I understand that just the opposite will be the case. I understand that by restricting the flow of the river going in there, there will be sufficient current to prevent that silting in and the formation of a bar. I have only the opinion of the engineers and am not prepared to dispute it.

Mr. BARKER. We shall see by and by who is right.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN. There is nothing of this stone breakwater left and it could not be utilized for any purpose whatever. The hon. gentleman may possibly be correct in saying that the mode of construction in this case may turn out to be faulty. It is largely in the way of experiment, and possibly in a year or two there will need to be additional expenditure to make the work valuable.

Phinney's cove—breakwater, \$6,800.

Mr. AMES. Where is that?

Mr. FISHER. It is in Annapolis county, on the south coast of the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. AMES. Near what place large enough to have its name on the map, is it?

Mr. FISHER. It is three miles west of a place called Kempt. There is a fishing fleet there which has no shelter.

Poirierville—landing pier, \$6,800.

Mr. FISHER. That is in Richmond county.

Mr. J. D. REID. Is it by contract and who is the contractor?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, Mr. Thomas Morrison of Descouse. It was let to the lowest tenderer. Estimated cost about \$8,500.

Mr. J. D. REID. Who has charge of it?

Mr. FISHER. The local inspector there. I do not know his name.

Porter's lake—boat channel to Three Fathom harbour, \$4,000.

Mr. AMES. What is intended to be done there?

Mr. FISHER. It is intended to excavate a complementary permanent channel, 1,050 feet long, across the neck of land known

as Gorman's head, so that it may be navigated by boats at low tide drawing three feet of water.

Mr. AMES. Here is a public work that is undoubtedly very much needed. Unless that work is done, not only can there be no access but there is considerable flooding of the whole neighbourhood at certain times of the year, which this is intended to prevent. Yet it has been just played with at election time the last two or three elections. Whenever there is an election on, we find great activity in connection with work at Porter's lake.

Mr. J. D. REID. In what constituency?

Mr. AMES. Halifax county. Take the last election of 1904, you find that in 1903-4 it was only thought necessary to expend \$325 in relieving the exigencies of this old trouble. But in 1904-5, \$4,275 were spent, and that was spent in October and November, and spent by days work immediately before the election. In September it was only considered necessary to put out about \$389 in wages, but in October, just before the elections, the wage list ran up to \$2,180. And no sooner was the election over, than it was found unnecessary to do anything more. Yet the following year, when Mr. Hyman took charge of the department, this is the way in which he described the work. He said a canal had been constructed but was not large enough to allow the water to go off. It was constructed for the distinct purpose of allowing the water that flooded the land to get out to the sea but it failed in that purpose. And although last year the inhabitants of the neighbourhood prayed to be relieved, there was not a dollar spent, and the probabilities are none will be spent this year. But if you have an election in November of 1908, there will be a tremendous pay roll in September and October. Really it seems to me that the government should deal with this very necessary matter in a business-like way. The people need this work and are entitled to it. There is a case of genuine hardship which the government should relieve, but it keeps this off for election purposes and will spend a lot of money just before the election and then do nothing for three or four years until another election comes on.

Mr. WILLIAM ROCHE (Halifax). I do not wish to be discourteous to the hon. gentleman and always try to listen to his remarks with patience, but he has a habit of propounding questions and making remarks regarding subjects of which he cannot necessarily have very much knowledge; and since he has made an itinerary of the lower provinces and obtained a little more information than he had previously, he looks upon himself as an authority on all matters particularly affecting those pro-