

he thought, nearly completed. It was with a view to finish it, and, perhaps, to make a beginning on the larger work that this small vote was at present asked. The entire work would require, Mr. Page estimated, an expenditure of nearly half a million, from first to last, in order to complete it. It was not at present considered necessary to commence the new lock, but it was merely now intended to complete the other works. He could not say that the lock was absolutely finished yet, but it was either finished or very near it. \$118,000 had been spent on it.

MR. ROCHESTER said he had understood last year that this work was then finished; he had passed through it. The work below St. Anne's was completed.

MR. MACKENZIE: Some piers are to be built yet.

MR. ROCHESTER: Not below; but there may be above.

MR. MACKENZIE: Yes; I think below.

MR. ROCHESTER said that the channel at St. Anne's at low water was fearfully crooked.

MR. MACKENZIE said a sum of money would be spent in providing piers.

*Vote agreed to.*

89. Carillon Lock and Canal.....\$240,000

In answer to Mr. ROCHESTER,

MR. MACKENZIE said it would be a long story to give information under this head. This work had been entirely suspended since last May or June, and no arrangement had as yet been come to with the contractors, and this was a matter on which Mr. Page was now engaged. The contractors were R. B. Cook & Jones. The contractors would prefer to give up the dam across the river altogether, and prosecute the other parts of the work, but the engineer objected to any division of the contract. This matter had given a great deal of trouble and anxiety to himself, and he had endeavoured to come to some arrangement which would be in the public interest,

MR. MACKENZIE:

and, at the same time, reasonably satisfactory to the contractors themselves. It was precisely in such a position at present that he preferred not to discuss the question, as it would be a matter of public inconvenience to be obliged to do so. This question was in dispute and it had given them a great deal of trouble. The Committee should be satisfied with knowing that it was the purpose of the Government to have the matter in such a state that when the water came to the lowest stage they would be in a position to prosecute it with the utmost possible vigour.

MR. ROCHESTER said that the river trade naturally demanded that something should immediately be done in this regard. The Chute à Blondeau Lock was in a most dilapidated condition, being propped up with planks and iron bolts. This dam and slides, if built, would do away altogether with this lock.

MR. MACKENZIE: I am quite aware of that.

MR. ROCHESTER said that the foreman had told him last Fall that he did not believe these locks would stand this year. They were paying from 25 to 40 per cent. for carriage between Ottawa and Montreal more than they ought to pay, simply because this work was not completed. He hoped that some arrangement would be made by which these locks would be put into such a position that they would answer the purpose of trade during this season at all events.

MR. WHITE (North Renfrew) said that the trade of Ottawa was suffering severely owing to the non-completion of these works. No work had what-ever been executed, despite the assertion to the contrary in the report of the Minister of Public Works—if he was correctly informed—upon the Carillon Canal since May 1877.

MR. MACKENZIE: I stated that myself.

MR. WHITE said yes; but no preparation so far as they could see had been made for recommencing work on this canal for the present season or up to the present time.