

because the work which had been begun would be carried out to sea. I have no doubt that I did not make any recommendation on the eve of the election. I know that after the election the work was going on and I was not asked to name a foreman. I know nothing at all as to who the foreman is, but I know money was expended then. The place was of sufficient importance after the 21st of September to justify the expenditure of what money was available.

Mr. MONK. It is impossible to suppose that a government coming into power would absolutely take all the estimates or all the works of improvement of the preceding government. There must be differences of opinion and these differences come out in the estimates.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Antigonish). The minister refers to McCara's Book. I do recall that there was a request made for a foreman down there but it happened that there was no road, no means for the public to get from the main road down to this wharf, although the wharf had been begun under the late Conservative administration. I refused to recommend a foreman until such time as the road was obtained.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I would like to ask the minister if he takes the advice of the defeated candidate on his own side with regard to the requirements of constituencies as to wharves, breakwaters, and improvements of that kind.

Mr. MONK. We are glad to get advice but we are guided largely by the district engineer. We receive representations from all who make them.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax). At an earlier date in the session I made inquiry of the Minister of Public Works regarding an expenditure of public money at Chester in the county of Lunenburg, and this is an instance in which the minister has allowed himself to be moved by improper influences. This is a public work, what is known as Chester canal and it is a cutting between the front and back of the harbour forming a small boat channel. The canal was supposed to facilitate the passage of boats from one harbour to another a distance of only a few feet. The expenditure of this money was commenced in the month of September, after the Dominion election. The provincial by-elections took place in Lunenburg and polling day was the 15th November. Two or three days, or possibly a week before polling day, on instructions from the department, work ceased and I have not the slightest doubt in the world that this was done upon representations of influential supporters of the Conservative party in Lunenburg that the continuance of this work during this par-

ticular period would operate against the Conservative candidate in the election. The work was stopped notwithstanding the fact that only \$200 or \$300 remained to be expended. That, in the first place, was small politics. Since then nothing has been done. At that time some money was due the men who were working on the canal for wages and up to this day they have not received all their claims. I do not propose to waste very much time over this, but I would like the minister to take it up. It is a case he cannot defend as the administration of his department. There was absolutely no excuse for the cessation of the work and there should not be any delay in the completion of it and the payment of such sums of money as are due the men for wages.

Mr. MONK. When I came to office I found a great many useless works being carried on and a very large number of men employed for whose services there was no necessity. When I saw the condition of things I gave a general order to stop, and it may be that in some cases the order operated unjustly. I will have much pleasure in looking into the work to which my hon. friend has referred. There is no doubt room for improvement in the harbour of Chester Cove, but I think the opinion of the sitting member is that the dredging as projected is not sufficiently deep. I will have a special report made by the District Engineer to see if anything can be done.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax). Some reason had to be given for stopping the work, I suppose, but in my opinion the work as contemplated is sufficient for the place. I trust the minister will at once take steps to pay these men for the work they performed last November?

Mr. KYTE. There were three items in the former estimates and omitted from these estimates which were for works of quite an important character, and I trust the minister will restore these votes in the supplementary estimates. I refer to the breakwater at Petit de Grat, the repairs to Poulamond wharf, and the improvement at Little harbour. The breakwater at Petit de Grat is in great disrepair and to preserve it money should be expended upon it at once. The Poulamond wharf is absolutely unsafe for handling freight, and vehicles cannot trust themselves upon the rotten covering. These are important works in the locality and a little money expended now would put them in repair. With respect to the Little harbour improvements a foreman was appointed last year and the lumber was purchased and conveyed to the site of the work. If the work is not