

Supply—Harbours and Rivers

Cap Santé—Wharf repairs, \$2,500.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): This is to renew the stringers, cap timber, flooring, and sheathing on all the surface of the wharf.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What county is Cap Santé in?

Mr. PARENT: In Portneuf county. It is about thirty miles from Quebec.

Mr. MEIGHEN: This is new work too?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): No. It is to renew the stringers and cap timbers, flooring and sheathing.

Item agreed to.

Cap St. Ignace—Wharf repairs, \$2,300.

Mr. STEVENS: What work is to be done here?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): The vote is required to renew the flooring and stringers of the head block.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What was last year's vote for?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): We renewed a portion of the flooring and most of the stringers on an area of 5,000 square feet.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Are the floors and stringers on this work renewed every year?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): No, this year's vote is to renew the flooring and stringers of the head block, that is the outer portion of the wharf.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Shall we require any next year?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): That will depend upon whether any repairs are necessary.

Mr. STEVENS: The method adopted is to get somebody employed there and then each year give them a little work.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): I think not. I consider that remark of my hon. friend is also unfair.

Mr. STEVENS: Very unfair!

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Yes.

Mr. STEVENS: Well, now, that is too bad. I am very sorry. I tender my most sincere apologies to the government for my misjudging. Far be it from them to keep any of the people there employed on the job. I have a shrewd suspicion though, borne of a good many years' experience, as to the ingenuity of individuals in supplying themselves with a job and keeping themselves in it. I believe that

[Mr. J. H. King.]

these items we have here, so neatly explained by the minister, to put in a block here and shore up a head block somewhere else, oil up a slip somewhere else, put in a drift pin at one place and a new cap at some other place, mean that someone is on the job all the time who must have something which can be characterized as an occupation. I want to call the attention of the Minister of Customs, who is deeply interested, to this: If you look back to the preceding year, and even to the year before that, you will find the same men on the same job. I venture to say that if we traced back to confederation we would find that the members of that man's family—his father, his grandfather, and his great grandfather—had been all on that job down through all the years with possibly the variation of a Grit or a Tory.

Mr. BUREAU: Oh, no, they have too much of a spirit of adventure to stay on such a little bit of work.

Mr. STEVENS: I am very skeptical of the explanation of the minister.

Mr. BUREAU: I find that some of them even go out to Vancouver.

Mr. STEVENS: If ever they get out to the Pacific coast they stay there, that is true.

Mr. BUREAU: No, some of them come back.

Item agreed to.

Carleton—Wharf repairs, \$1,025.

Mr. STEVENS: What is this for?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): For driving the sheet piling on both sides of the shore end of the wharf. This is an important point and these repairs are essential.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What county is it in?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): It is in Bonaventure county.

Mr. STEVENS: The amount in this case is quite small, and I want to compliment the Chairman on the fact that he did not have the hardihood to insist on this work being done by day labour. The Chairman ought to be selected for the commendation of this committee because this is evidence that he at least does not unduly press for patronage.

Item agreed to.

Caughnawaga—Wharf improvement, \$2,500.

Mr. STEVENS: What is this for?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): For rip-rapping on the east side of the approach.