

sembled, when we could get an appropriation?

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): The classification was before the House last year.

Mr. McCURDY: It was not completed until the middle of 1920, so far as these employees are concerned.

Mr. VIEN: As a matter of fact, the reclassification increased the salaries of very few civil employees. I understood that instead of increasing their salaries, in most cases, it decreased them. This, I believe, does not apply during the tenure of office of present holders, but in very few cases did the reclassification increase salaries.

Mr. McCURDY: My hon. friend is quite incorrect. I have not encountered any cases where salaries were decreased under the reclassification.

Mr. VIEN: The maximum, in many classes I can point out, have been lowered.

Mr. McCURDY: You are talking about classifications of positions and grades; I am talking about the amount of money payable to engineers and firemen, and I have not come across a single case where the wages have been decreased.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): The classification did not affect the water, and the minister has not explained that.

Mr. McCURDY: This is the first year in which the Government is liable to pay rental of \$35,000 to the city of Ottawa under the new agreement. I am informed, by the officials of the department, that at the beginning of last year this agreement with the city of Ottawa had not been completed, and therefore no vote was taken for water.

Mr. McKENZIE: There is no use getting off with any camouflage of that kind.

Mr. McCURDY: I rise to a point of order; I ask the hon. member to withdraw that expression.

Mr. McKENZIE: What else is it? It is a good word.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. McKENZIE: I care not what the minister says; there is no use in trying to camouflage the House by stating things which the records of the House do not bear out.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think the expression is in order; it is not in order for one hon. gentleman to accuse another of attempting to camouflage the House.

Mr. McKENZIE: I did not say, attempting; I said, actually camouflaging the House.

The CHAIRMAN: I fear that would be still worse.

Mr. McKENZIE: The contract with the city of Ottawa was signed while the House of Commons was in session, and all the details were discussed with the Minister of Railways (Mr. Reid), who was then Acting Minister of Public Works. Now the minister says that it was not passed during that time.

Mr. McCURDY: I never said that the agreement was not passed. I said that the officials of the department advised me that the agreement was not signed at the time the Estimates were brought down last year.

Mr. McKENZIE: The agreement was signed and adopted while the House was sitting. There is no use in the minister and his officials shaking their heads and finding there is no sound inside.

Mr. McCURDY: There is a good deal elsewhere.

Mr. McKENZIE: I have a distinct recollection that we discussed this matter and criticised it, and if my hon. friend will consult the Minister of Railways, that hon. gentleman will tell him what difficulty he had in getting the agreement through.

Item agreed to.

Harbours and Rivers, Nova Scotia, \$2,370.

Mr. McKENZIE: In Victoria and North Cape Breton we have perhaps the largest coastline of any county in Canada, including the inland waters of the Bras d'Or lakes and the seacoast, throughout which it is necessary to have harbours, breakwaters and wharves. During the fifteen years the Liberal party was in power, and the member for Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding) was Minister of Finance, several wharves and breakwaters were built which were absolutely necessary for that part of the country. I am sorry that the present minister's policy is to allow these wharves to rot and fall to pieces, leaving no accommodation for the fishermen's boats. We have no railroads in the county of Victoria for a distance of over one hundred and twenty miles. The only means of com-