

and agreed to by the engineers, but it was not agreed to by the Minister of Public Works, and until the Minister of Public Works gets it to suit him he would not agree to it all. I think the proposition made last year would be a great deal better. If the Minister of Public Works knows more about our needs in the harbour of Montreal than our commissioners do, then he is the proper man to go to work and build these improvements himself. But, if there is any use having a harbour commission at all, the commissioners should be allowed to do it. We know there was complaint after complaint and no attention paid to them. In seconding the motion I do not feel the least hesitation in saying that I know we will have the good wishes of and will be working for the best interests of the largest class of the mercantile community in Montreal, the shipping interests, and all these other interests, if we can put this bill off for another year, rather than have that monstrous clause enacted.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Whether we live in the east or in the west, as Canadians we must feel a deep interest in the port of Montreal. It is our great commercial emporium for Canada, and must necessarily continue to be such, and our desire should be that the port of Montreal should, in every respect, be at least as good as any port on the American continent. I understand that up to the present time all the improvements that have been made at that port have been made at the expense of the citizens of Montreal. They have borrowed money, on which they have been paying interest, and this loan which they are authorized to make is one on which they are to pay interest at three per cent.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—The grain shipped from the west has to pay the interest.

Hon. Mr. FORGET—Not at all. The railways are on the wharfs. It does not cost a cent more.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I understand the port of Montreal has paid its own way. I am not aware whether the loans were from the government or not, but it has paid interest on its loans, and it is proposing to do the same with the money now being borrowed under this bill, and I do think, under these circumstances that the disposition of

that money should be left with the harbour commissioners of the port of Montreal, and that this House should not dictate where that money is to be spent, or how it is to be appropriated.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The majority of the harbour commissioners favour this bill.

Hon. Mr. OGILVIE—Those appointed by the government.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—And the majority must govern in this matter.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I thought the majority of them favoured another disposition of the money. I understand a portion of these commissioners are appointed by the government, and I suppose the government exercises a certain influence in the disposition of the money, if the harbour commissioners are the nominees of the government.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—And the mayor of Montreal.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Yes. It certainly will not be denied that the majority of the harbour commissioners chosen by the city of Montreal itself, by the board of trade and the chamber of commerce, those who are representative of the city of Montreal, are opposed to the proposed disposition of the money.

Hon. Mr. OGILVIE—That will not be denied.

Hon. Mr. FORGET—The chambre de commerce is in favour of it. Its representative voted for it, and he is not appointed by the government.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I think that I understand the position, and I am right in saying that a majority of the harbour commissioners chosen by the city of Montreal from the board of trade or chamber of commerce favour a different disposition of this money to that which it is proposed to make under the terms of this bill. If that is so, in voting this money, which the city of Montreal had to pay the interest upon, we should follow the views of the representatives of the city of Montreal and not interfere in the disposition of the money. While I say that, I hear my friends here say that it will be the duty of the government to deal with