feet wide and a pierhead 99 feet long and 13 feet to 25 feet wide, with ferry slip and a single guard pier. It is under contract. The contract was made in April, 1924.

Mr. STEVENS: Would the minister tell us the number of tenders received, the price, and the contractor?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): There were eight tenders in all. The successful tenderers were Arcade Landry and Frank T. Landry, $9,814. The tenders varied from that figure up to $18,123.

Mr. STEVENS: How much is spent and what is the additional money?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Our tenders fortunately are lower than the estimate as prepared and placed in the estimates on the advice of the engineer.

Mr. STEVENS: You could reduce the estimate.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): No, I do not think so.

Shediac island—Wharf repairs, $1,000.

Mr. STEVENS: What is that?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Rebuilding, from half tide up, three blocks displaced by the storm of October 1, 1923; and placing a strip of 2 inch plank 9 feet wide along the centre of the covering, which is decayed and is in places dangerous.

Item agreed to.

Shippigan Gully—Repairs to breakwaters, $1,000.

Mr. DOUCET: There was a vote in 1922-23 of $4,000 for this work, a vote of $1,000 last year, and this is a different vote of $1,000. Could the minister give us an explanation of what work is being done, or if it is necessary to have the repairs carried on?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): This is for close piling the channel side of a section of the east breakwater 70 feet long; placing a quantity of brush in the breast work east of this breakwater; and placing a bulkhead of close piles across the west breakwater at the end of the ell or inside extension.

Item agreed to.

Stonehaven—Rebuilding protection block, $1,000.

Mr. STEVENS: Before these items are disposed of, I want to ask a general question about all the items of this vote. We have a vote of $123,850. Last year there was a vote of $249,900. Can the minister inform us how much of the $249,900 has been expended, and give us in a brief and concise form the disposition of the vote of last year?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): My hon. friend would like a detailed statement of the amounts expended, or the total?

Mr. STEVENS: What was expended?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): The amount was, $41,993.97.

Mr. STEVENS: I quoted the wrong figure. I see it was about $40,000.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Yes.

Mr. STEVENS: May I point out, not in criticism of the items, but in regard to the amounts; we have a vote now passed, or about to be passed finally, of $123,000 as against $40,000 last year. This is a very substantial increase, about 300 per cent. Does the minister consider that the needs warrant this large increase? This is only typical of some other votes.

Mr. LEWIS: How does the minister explain the statement that only $41,000 was spent when there was this $249,000 voted last year; and only this small amount to be re-voted.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): We were very careful in our expenditures last year, and I hope we will be careful this year. The vote asked for last year was $249,000, and this year we are asking for $123,850, being a very considerable reduction on the amount asked for last year. I do not think we should put in a less amount, with the information we have.

Mr. STEVENS: Would the minister agree to the suggestion that perhaps there might be an election in sight; and in consequence the estimates show a large number of Christmas gifts, which might have a valuable and sustaining influence in favour of government condidates. My hon. friend from Three Rivers (Mr. Bureau) appreciates the wisdom of this suggestion. There is an increase from $40,000 to $123,000. I know the political intent of the Minister of Customs leads him at once to recognize the value of it. Of course, the Minister of Public Works perhaps did not notice it when these items were pressed upon him. Would the minister agree that that would be the explanation?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): No, I would not agree.

Item agreed to.