

the west rallying behind it, because it would be just as beneficial to them through the shipment of wheat at lower rates and other western commodities to European markets. I suggest to the minister that he keep before him the idea of the canalization of the great river with regard to which Sir Wilfrid Laurier said, in language that no other Canadian orator could use, that he could see modern ships going up and down the river from Edmonton to Winnipeg. I suggest that the minister take the matter under his own observation and consult his engineers. He will find all the facts and figures there. I myself have looked over them several times with great interest. Probably he could get a big motor boat at The Pas and go up the river himself. I have been up and down much of the river. I took a delight in surveying the Saskatchewan river. This is just a suggestion primarily to show the western people that we are trying to do something for them and to assist them in getting behind the projected St. Lawrence deep waterways.

Mr. STEPHENSON: I do not see an item under which I can ask the question I wish to ask. I should like to refer to such places as Rice lake and lake Scugog. Weeds have grown to such an extent in these lakes that it is pretty nearly impossible to get boats in and out from the docks. What department of government will give any assistance to clean up these lakes?

Mr. CHEVRIER: The Department of Transport looks after canals. The canals administration has to do with the cutting of weeds in the main channels but not outside the channel.

Mr. STEPHENSON: That is the difficulty. Will the government give assistance to assist people to cut these weeds? What department of government will give any assistance?

Mr. CHEVRIER: These weeds are not growing on federal property. It is not our responsibility. If they are growing on federal property it is their responsibility. The weeds that my hon. friend refers to are not on our property.

Mr. STEPHENSON: I should like the minister to give me some information as to where we can get some help. Is there any department of the dominion government which will give assistance in this case?

Mr. CHEVRIER: It is a provincial matter.

Mr. STEPHENSON: Strictly a provincial matter?

Mr. CHEVRIER: Yes.

Item agreed to.

Marine service—

415. Maintenance and repairs to wharves, \$5,000.

Mr. DROPE: This item has to do with wharves. There are a lot of wharves on Rice lake and some are in need of repair. They are really in bad condition. Nothing has been done this spring toward fixing them up. Apparently there is a small maintenance crew for this job. Our tourist season is open now and yet the wharves are in a deplorable condition in this part of the lake. Will the minister say whether they are to be repaired?

Mr. CHEVRIER: I am not familiar with the repairs that the hon. gentleman has in mind. If they are small repairs, repairs which would involve little expense they come under this department; otherwise they come under the Department of Public Works. If the hon. member will bring the matter to my attention I shall look into it.

The answer to the question of the hon. member for Vancouver East with reference to boats on the Rideau canal in 1946 is as follows: 135 exceeding forty feet in length and 16,382 vessels using ships' reports, including pleasure craft.

Progress reported.

Item agreed to.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.