

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.  
Hear, hear.

Mr. GILLIES. I listened with considerable pleasure to the observations made by my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Bethune), and I rise to endorse every statement he made in connection with the necessity of a harbour of refuge being established at Aspy Bay. If the Minister will take the map of Cape Breton and study that coast for a few moments, I am quite sure that he will as readily as I do, endorse every word that has fallen from the lips of my hon. friend (Mr. Bethune). The Minister will remember, that on the whole of this iron-bound coast there is not for some 120 miles, a single place of refuge for a ship or boat of any kind. This is not only a matter of local importance to the fishermen, but it is really a work of national importance, because if a harbour of refuge were established there it would be frequented by very many of the vessels seeking the coast on the eastern seaboard in the early spring.

While on this subject, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to a question which I brought to his notice last session, and to which he promised to give his attention at a very early period. I refer to the L'Ardoise breakwater. I am sorry to see that there is no provision whatever made in the main Estimates for that work. During the last summer session, I gave notice of motion inquiring from the Minister if it was the intention of the Government to have that work enlarged, both seawards and landwards, this being necessary as I pointed out and as was reported on by his own engineer last year. The Minister then told me, that he contemplated devoting some attention to this very important work at an early date. During this session I also had a motion in connection with this matter, and the Minister was good enough to give me the same—perhaps not very satisfactory answer—but still the somewhat hopeful though somewhat indefinite one: that it was under consideration. I hope that he has given it careful consideration, and although these main Estimates show no provision for that important work, I do trust the Supplementary Estimates will demonstrate that it has received the Minister's favourable consideration. I again impress upon the Minister the importance of that work. L'Ardoise is situated at a point on the Atlantic coast distant some 60 miles from the harbour of Louisbourg on the east, and there is no harbour on the west for some considerable distance; the nearest being St. Peter's, which is very inconvenient for that locality. The Minister will kindly remember that that is a very large and important section of the country. It is populated entirely by fishermen. The reports in the office of the Minister of Marine will show, that some 200 boats manned by five or six hundred people go out on the bosom of the waters that surround those coasts, day in

Mr. KAULBACH.

and day out, during the season, seeking a precarious livelihood from these great waters and not a single shelter have they, except the small shelter formed by that breakwater, which is only partially built, and to which I now draw attention. It was the intention of the late Government to complete this breakwater by extending it further towards the shore, thereby making it more commodious and safer, and also, extending it a little towards the sea, thereby affording a wider area for the boats to shelter in. I again press upon the Minister the absolute necessity of having that work completed at the earliest possible time. I would be sorry to insinuate that such a thing as favoritism prevails with the Minister in the distribution of public money, but I cannot help observing that I find, when I look at these Estimates, that counties which are represented here by Conservatives are in a marked degree absent from these Estimates. Not a single county in the Island of Cape Breton, nor one on the mainland, represented by a Conservative, has a vote in these Estimates that I can find. Surely politics have nothing to do with the construction of works which are absolutely necessary for the preservation of life on our sea-coasts. Such a course was not the policy of the late Government. My hon. friend will see, if he refers to the appropriations in his own department, that the county of Yarmouth was very well looked after by the late Government, although it was then represented in this House by a member very hostile to that Government. The same was the case with the county of Digby, which was represented in the last Parliament by a gentleman who never cast a vote in favour of the late Government. That county was very lavishly provided for by the late Minister of Public Works. Not one of us found fault with this, because these works were works of necessity, and as all the counties contribute to the public treasury, it would be almost criminal to distinguish one county and provide for it handsomely, because it was represented in this House, perhaps accidentally by a gentleman supporting the Administration of the day, and to discriminate against another county which, wisely or otherwise, thought proper to send a gentleman here to represent it who was not in harmony politically with the Government that held sway for the moment. I will ask my hon. friend now if it is his intention to make some provision in the Supplementary Estimates for the work to which I am calling his attention. If so, I personally will appreciate it, and the people who sent me here will appreciate it in no less degree.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I do not think my hon. friend is quite fair to me. Since the last session of Parliament I have caused a survey to be made at that point, and when the Supplementary Estimates come down, I hope my hon. friend