

the part of wisdom that, when money is so difficult to obtain, we should proceed along the line of economy. I think this will appeal to the judgment of my hon. friend.

Mr. McKENZIE: I do not think it would appeal to the judgment of the minister himself that a valuable public work should be allowed to go to ruin. This breakwater cost \$10,000 or \$20,000 to erect, and was a magnificent structure, affording shelter to hundreds of fishermen's boats. It has been of inestimable benefit for the last 25 years, and the fishermen who depend upon it for shelter would not regard it as the part of wisdom for the Government to allow that work to fall into decay for the sake of saving the little money that might be spent repairing it. The deputy minister is quite familiar with Macleod's breakwater at Ingonish. It was built 23 years ago, and it has been of the utmost service to the fishermen of that place. But during the past few years it has been going to pieces. As a result of the action of the sea, it will soon disappear altogether unless something is done to reinforce it. It is right on the Atlantic, exposed to the full force of the elements. It would have been better for these fisherman had this breakwater not been built at all, if the Government is not going to repair it. It was because it was built that the fishermen built large boats.

Mr. BUTTS: Is it not true that, under the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Macleod's breakwater was allowed to fall into decay, and a new one was erected a couple of hundred yards away for Mr. Burke, who was a strong supporter of that government?

Mr. McKENZIE: It was not a couple of hundred yards away. It is not true that Macleod's breakwater was allowed to fall into decay by the late government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier; it was kept in perfectly good repair. The fact is that owing to the condition of the site they could not extend the wharf, and in order to serve the same purpose another breakwater was built, so that between the two there was ample accommodation for the fishermen of Ingonish. Of course, Birk's wharf, as my hon. friend calls it, is a newer structure, more sheltered, and it has not yet got into disrepair. The minister knows that last year he called for tenders to repair this public work. A contract was let to a man whose name is familiar to the minister. He was in the contracting trade, and I have some letters from the department say-

ing that the work would be done. I have always been deploring the pity of allowing this wharf to fall into decay, but after the contract was let something happened and the work was not proceeded with. Now, I appeal to the minister to take some action in this matter. I think it is very much to be regretted that the department, after deciding to reconstruct the wharf, having put a vote in the Estimates, and called for tenders, accepting a tender and signing the contract, should now give up the idea of doing the work. So far as I can see there is not a dollar in the Estimates for it. When this wharf was built, the enterprising fishermen of the locality built large gasoline boats, which they could anchor behind the breakwater. Before that, only small boats were in use there, boats which the men could haul up from the sea at night. If this breakwater goes to pieces, these large boats will be absolutely without any protection. Every one has found this breakwater to be of the greatest possible benefit, and I trust the minister will not allow it to disappear entirely and thus throw the people back into the primitive and impossible conditions under which they worked before it was built. There are many other structures along the shore in the same condition. Ever since the war I have not asked for one single dollar from the Government for public works, because I have fully realized the conditions under which we were living. But I do appeal to the minister now, not only as a matter of good judgment, but from the point of view of sound economy, that breakwaters and structures of that kind, which are most useful to the people, should not be allowed to fall into decay. Every man in the House, whether on this side, or behind the Government, must agree with the reasonableness of this appeal. I shall be very much disappointed if the minister does not take this matter into serious consideration.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): I do not think I can support the position which the minister takes. There was a great convenience in having district officers scattered throughout the provinces. The engineers could keep in touch with the work because they were near at hand and knew the people; and there are advantages in connection with district offices as we have them. The rentals will be increased in Halifax. No doubt more room will be required than formerly, and I have no doubt the travelling expenses will be large. When we take into consideration these facts, and the retir-