

navigation, for example, where big boats are going up and down a river, and the main channel is not far from the river banks, erosion is caused by the waves of passing vessels and protection works are needed. This item can cover work of that kind. The vote is of a temporary nature, and is one of the proposals of the government for providing employment relief work.

Mr. STEWART: I thought this was a new item. As the minister says, there are many requests for protection works, and I am sorry I did not have this item to take care of some of the requests I received when I was in the department. The minister ought to be able to do a good bit of protection with \$500,000.

Mr. CARDIN: It is for the whole country.

Mr. STEWART: Yes. But once you admit liability for erosion along the banks of a river, and undertake to provide protection works, you are in for a continued and very large expenditure over a period of years. The policy of the department has been to resist so far as possible claims for such erosion, because once you get into that field it is almost unlimited. I am sure the minister can easily spend the \$500,000, and I hope he will protect everybody who needs protection.

Mr. TAYLOR (Nanaimo): Will the minister state if it is possible to do anything in connection with Ladysmith wharf this season? I understand the matter is under review.

Mr. CARDIN: We are getting a report on that, and I seriously hope we shall be in a position to satisfy my hon. friend.

Item agreed to.

Roads and bridges—Interprovincial bridge, Campbellton, N.B., to Cross Point, Que., the provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec each to pay one-third of the cost and maintenance thereof, \$100,000.

Mr. BROOKS: Is it not the usual thing, where interprovincial bridges are being constructed, for each province to make a contribution and then appeal to the federal government for a contribution?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes. We are providing under this vote for the federal government's share, and the two provinces will have to contribute a similar amount each.

Mr. BROOKS: Have they applied to the federal government for a contribution?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. BROOKS: Have they voted their own contributions?

[Mr. Cardin.]

Mr. CARDIN: No, not yet, but they have applied to us, and we are providing this amount in case the provincial governments provide a similar amount.

Item agreed to.

Telegraph branch—Saskatchewan and Alberta—telephone line from Ile a la Crosse to Buffalo Narrows, \$10,000.

Mr. STEWART: Is this a new telephone line?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. STEWART: I understood the policy of the department was not to build any more lines than were necessary. Why is this one being built?

Mr. CARDIN: I am informed that it is in the class defined as pioneer lines where private companies refuse to build. But, as my hon. friend suggested with regard to protection works, we try to resist requests of this kind as much as possible.

Item agreed to.

Public works—generally—to provide for balance required to complete any projects already undertaken, no new works to be undertaken, \$200,000.

Mr. STEWART: Is this the same as last year or is there an increase?

Mr. CARDIN: It is the same as last year.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

National Defence—departmental administration, \$425,720.

Mr. MacNEIL: There is a matter in regard to which I wish very briefly to lodge a protest. On March 7 I moved for a return of the house, as follows:

For a copy of all orders, decisions, letters, telegrams, recommendations and recorded evidence relating to the court of enquiry held by the Department of National Defence in Quebec, August 24 to August 28, 1936, to deal with charges against officers of the Royal 22nd Regiment.

The acting minister at that time, apparently acting on the advice of the departmental officers, stated:

The proceedings of the board of inquiry are of a confidential character. The documents and memoranda relating thereto come within the category of privileged communications.

So far as I am informed with regard to the procedure and usages of this house I consider that my rights as a member of the house were infringed upon. I did not ask for privileged documents. My motion might have been accepted by the government with