

Mr. BERGERON. Why?

Mr. FISHER. I cannot tell.

Mr. BERGERON. Will the government lose anything by it?

Mr. MONK. What reason have they given for giving up the work? They ought to be forced to finish their contract?

Mr. FISHER. I do not know.

Mr. J. D. REID. How much was the deposit?

Mr. FISHER. It is still in the hands of the department, I suppose.

Mr. J. D. REID. There is generally a deposit and in addition there is a certain percentage of the progress estimate kept back.

Mr. FISHER. That is done.

Mr. J. D. REID. They have the government deposit and the percentage of the progress estimate?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. J. D. REID. Then there is no reason why they should lose?

Mr. FISHER. No, the government will not lose.

Mr. J. D. REID. And there is no reason why the work should cost any more than it would under the original contract?

Mr. FISHER. No, but it delays the work.

Mr. J. D. REID. The minister says that it is going to cost more.

Mr. FISHER. No, I did not say so.

Mr. J. D. REID. The minister says that this \$15,000 will bring it up to what the original estimate of the whole work was to cost?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. J. D. REID. And yet he says that will not complete it.

Mr. FISHER. I did not intend to say that; this is intended to cover the whole work.

Mr. J. D. REID. And will it complete the whole work?

Mr. FISHER. I believe so.

Mr. J. D. REID. We have a right to know why this firm which is perfectly solvent and which has not failed has abandoned this work.

Mr. FISHER. I am informed that they were not proceeding with their work in such a way as to satisfy the department, that the department had notified them that they must proceed with and complete it within a certain time or else the government would take the work out of their hands,

and they said they would not do that, that they could not do it and the government took the work out of their hands.

Mr. MONK. As I understand the position, these contractors have government work at Quebec.

Mr. FISHER. They are not the same contractors at all; that is another firm.

Mr. MONK. And they have refused to carry on this contract and the government have taken it out of their hands.

Mr. FISHER. These are different contractors from those who are doing work at Quebec.

Mr. MONK. They have no other contract from the government?

Mr. FISHER. No.

Mr. MONK. Is that the position as I have stated it?

Mr. FISHER. No, the position as you have stated it is not correct because these are not the people who have a large contract from the government at Quebec.

Mr. MONK. I asked if the position in regard to these contractors is that they have been called upon by the government to complete their works but they have refused and that the government have taken them out of their hands?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. MONK. When did the government take over these works and who has them in hand now?

Mr. FISHER. They have just lately signified their intention not to go on with them.

Mr. MONK. Then the government has not taken over the work?

Mr. FISHER. Officially it has not, but that is the consequence of their notifying us that they will not go on. We have not yet taken active steps to go there and take it over.

Mr. MONK. And they have given the government no other reason for the abandonment of this work except that they do not want to go on?

Mr. FISHER. They could not complete the work in time and the department notified them that they must complete it or give it up.

Mr. BERGERON. They could not keep the contract?

Mr. FISHER. They could not fulfil the contract.

Mr. BERGERON. What is the first name of Dussault?

Mr. FISHER. J.