

when a site for a graving dock should be selected, and for them to know whether it was the intention to build such a dock at all, and if so, the place where, and time when. The interests of the country required that immediate steps in this connection should be taken by the Government, and he hoped that the question would not be left undecided until the occasion of the next elections. The choice of the site should be submitted to the Engineers. He did not possess scientific knowledge, but he was under the impression that if the River St. Charles did not furnish a suitable location, such could be found at Wolfe's Cove, where the dock could be built with little, if any, more expense than at Point Lévis.

From an engineering point of view it was fully equal to the site at Point Lévis, and far superior from a commercial point of view. He hoped it would not be held over until next general election, so as to be again used as a political engine. He knew that if the President of the Council lost this useful help he would find, when required, some other means of helping his friends. It reminded him of a page of our political history. It was when the seat of Government had not yet become permanent. The Government went, at that period, from Quebec to Montreal, and from Kingston to Toronto. When an important vote presented itself the gentlemen in power threatened their supporters, representing these different districts, that unless they voted as required they would lose the permanent seat of Government. Thus this question of the graving dock was utilized, as he stated above. When an election occurred in Lévis, electors were told: "Vote for the Government candidate, and he will secure the graving dock for Lévis." If the battle raged in Quebec, the independent electors were told: "Elect the friend of the Government and the dock will certainly be secured for Quebec." We hoped this would cease, and the graving dock question settled once and for all.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE remarked that he had listened with a good deal of interest to the speeches of hon. gentlemen opposite, and of his hon. friend from Lévis; and in the first place, he could not help observing how

Mr. CARON.

impossible it seemed for the former to speak, even of a business matter, without introducing political considerations; but they had been unable to show that the Government had used political influence in connection with this or any other work. Still the hon. member for Bellechasse had not hesitated to say that this was the motive which the Administration had in view. He did not desire to convince the hon. member of the contrary, for he knew that this could not be done; the hon. gentleman had been a very distinguished member of the opposite party, and he dared say, felt bound—

Hon. Mr. BLANCHET—Pardon me I did not say that the Government had used the Quebec graving dock question as a political engine; but that the President of the Council had raised expectations in the minds of the electors in this connection.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE accepted the hon. gentleman's correction; the hon. member from Bellechasse, he dared say, had felt bound to show his new-found friends the extent of his enthusiasm in their behalf. His hon. friend was mistaken when he said that the President of the Council had exercised any influence whatever in this relation; he failed to establish in any manner that the question was used with reference to late elections, while he must have known that the entire expenditure on the fortifications had been very trifling.

Hon. Mr. BLANCHET—Excuse me again. I do not like to be misrepresented or misunderstood. I did not speak of money laid out on the fortifications which was voted either at the last or the preceding Parliament; I referred to improvements proposed by the President of the Council, mentioned in some newspapers, and expected to be made by the people of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—With this matter the Government has had nothing as yet to do; and whatever might be done, would of course be ordered with the knowledge and consent of the House. He would merely say that the works on the fortification had been undertaken purely in the public interest, irrespective of any election cries whatever. He was glad to observe that the