

I will of course let you know as soon as we get the Treasury decision.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) Edward Carson.

Then on the 19th of the same month I addressed the following letter to Mr. Bonar Law:

Savoy Hotel, London,
April 19th, 1917.

My dear Mr. Bonar Law:—

I am growing anxious regarding the matter of dry docks at Esquimalt and Halifax, about which I spoke to you a few days ago.

I sincerely hope you will be able to give me a favourable answer.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) R. Rogers.

The Rt. Hon. Bonar Law,
London, England.

On the 21st of April I received the following letter from Mr. Bonar Law:

Treasury Chambers,
Whitehall, S.W.,
21st April, 1917.

My dear Mr. Rogers:—

I have your letter of the 19th of April about the Esquimalt and Halifax docks. I am in communication with the Admiralty and I shall send you a reply as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) A. Bonar Law.

After that I had one or two further interviews with Mr. Law. I saw him the day before we left England and he promised favourable consideration. They are very busy over there but I hope he will take the matter up and press it upon the Admiralty. I am satisfied from the conversations and interviews I had that the Admiralty are entirely agreed that the building of these two docks is a work belonging to themselves and I am very hopeful that it will be carried out.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: In the event of the Admiralty not carrying out the suggestion, has the Government any intention of going on either by itself or jointly with the Admiralty?

Mr. ROGERS: We have had several applications under the Dry Dock Subsidies Act from certain persons who are anxious to build dry docks, especially at Halifax and Esquimalt, and we always stood prepared to accept any sound proposition for the building of a dock under the Dry Dock Subsidies Act. But there always was complaint that the Act was not sufficiently favourable. As I understand the Bill now before the House, it is to provide more inviting conditions for those desirous of investing in a dry dock.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: There has been no further communication with the Admiralty since the date of the last letter?

Mr. ROGERS: No.

Mr. CARVELL: Personally, I am very much pleased to hear the statement made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rogers). I have always felt that dry docks were a great necessity. I would like to know whether, as a result of three years of war, we have really suffered from the lack of a dock at Halifax or Esquimalt. It would seem that, if ever, there must have been great need during that time. I realize that the Government could not give detailed information. Would it not have been a great advantage to have had a dry dock at Halifax or some other place on the Atlantic coast?

Mr. ROGERS: During my term as Minister of Public Works we received many complaints, especially with respect to the number of ships that had to go to Seattle to have repairs made by reason of the fact that there was no suitable dock at Esquimalt to receive them. We at one time started to build a dry dock at Esquimalt, but the war came on and then we got into correspondence with the Admiralty and it has rested there since.

Mr. CARVELL: Would that be true of the East as well as the West?

Mr. ROGERS: Not so much in the East as in the West, because ships that come to Halifax almost always have their dry dock work done in England.

Mr. REID moved:

That paragraph (a) be amended by inserting after the words "per cent" the words "per annum."

Section as amended agreed to.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Is there a dry dock under construction at Levis?

Mr. REID: Yes.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Is it nearing completion?

Mr. REID: It will be ready this fall.

On section 4—section 3 not to apply to existing contracts:

Mr. PUGSLEY: Might I suggest to the minister that, if possible, there should be arrangements made for the establishment of a ship building plant in connection with each dry dock so that the men could be kept constantly at work.