

be managed, and have been able at all times, I believe, to meet their obligations. It has been a great boon to the whole Dominion of Canada to have such a harbour as we have in the city of Montreal. I believe, of course, that Montreal has been specially favoured by Providence in as much as it is an ocean port about 170 miles farther inland than the port of Quebec, and has great physical advantages. I think Montreal will in all probability be able to maintain its supremacy as a shipping port unless it be that in the future the tonnage of our ocean-going ships so greatly increases that they will not be able to go up as far as Montreal by reason of the levels of the St. Lawrence. At the present time, undoubtedly, Montreal is the great summer port of Canada. It has been well managed in the past, and I assume it will be well managed in the future. The proposal here is in the nature of a loan which will be returned to this Government. We will accept the bonds of the Harbour Commissioners, and those bonds bear interest sufficient to pay the cost to this country of carrying the loan, but in the case of the Quebec Harbour Commission which we discussed this afternoon, the proposal was not in the nature of a loan at all, but a straight grant of money without the chance of obtaining any interest or even the principal for many, many years to come. Personally, I would approve this resolution without further discussion.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The figures given by the minister disclose an investment that the country has in the port of Montreal of about \$34,000,000. That is the aggregate of the various years right up from Confederation until now. The minister's figures also disclose a revenue last year that, if I figured it correctly in my mind as he read, amounted to about nine per cent. The commission pays, as I understand it, five per cent on its bonds. I do not think the whole investment is covered by bonds. Consequently, there will be more than four per cent of a surplus, or a surplus somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$1,500,000. That surplus, of course, is not paid to the Dominion Treasury. It is held by the Harbour Commissioners. Is that surplus applied under the supervision of the Government towards improvements, towards extensions, towards facilities? If so, is this \$5,000,000 in addition to the application of accrued surpluses by the commissioners, and what is the extent of the accrued surpluses that have been invested and are being invested this year?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Improvements made that have been paid from revenue income amount to \$2,266,777.45.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Improvements from surplus income last year?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Last year?

Mr. LAPOINTE: No, the figure I gave covers a number of years.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The surplus received last year, according to the minister's figures was about \$1,500,000.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I do not think so.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I understood the minister to read two million odd as the disbursements and \$3,800,000 as the revenue.

Mr. LAPOINTE: No. The revenue last year was \$2,891,274.42, and the expenditure \$2,724,100.02.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I did not catch the figures the first time.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Let me state that last year the total quantity of grain shipped through the port of Montreal amounted to 135,000,000 bushels, and of that quantity 55,000,000 bushels was United States grain shipped to Montreal.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is, 135,000,000 bushels through the port of Montreal as against 5,000,000 through the port of Quebec?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Lapointe thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 80 to grant further advances to the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES

House again in Committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the Chair.

Maintenance and repairs to Dominion Steamers and Icebreakers, \$1,600,000.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Mr. STEVENS: We are rather taken by surprise. We understood the Minister of Public Works was going on with his estimates to-night and we were all loaded for him; we did not expect that the esti-