

province of New Brunswick and the government of the province of Quebec to accept the responsibility of sharing in this new venture. Also in the course of his remarks the minister asked me whether I was against the bridge. I want to make it clear that I am not against the construction of this bridge; I am greatly in favour of the bridge. I am sorry the Minister of Transport is not in his seat at the moment. I have here in my hand the *Telegraph-Journal* for Monday, May 26, which under the heading "Hon. George Hees officiates for Day's Ceremony" contains an article which reads in part as follows:

Campbellton—A start was made on the Campbellton-Cross Point bridge here Saturday when the Hon. George Hees, Minister of Transport, officiated over the dumping of the first load of stone on the causeway.

I wish the minister were here because I am informed—and I should like to check on this information—that the minister was about 1,000 miles away from Campbellton when this project was started and this ceremony took place.

Speaking about bridges, may I say that there is now under construction in Gloucester county a bridge to link Shippigan island to the mainland. This bridge is being built by a private company and when it is completed it will be a toll bridge. It is most unfortunate that the government of the province of New Brunswick has not consulted with the federal government with a view to making this bridge a joint federal-provincial project. After all, this bridge crosses navigable waters in an extremely busy channel which is being used at least two to four times a week by 60 to 70 druggers and a fleet of smaller fishing boats. This is a project which should have been undertaken with the joint co-operation of the federal and provincial governments because it is not right to ask the 5,000 or 6,000 people of Shippigan island to have to pay a fare every time they wish to cross to the mainland.

I would like to refer to projects which are of special interest to my constituency of Gloucester. I realize the Minister of Public Works has stated on many occasions that his government is determined, by means of this so-called accelerated program to help solve the unemployment situation. In my constituency the minister has a golden opportunity to put this policy into practice. We have for example, at Maissonnette, a small village of about 150 families, 35 fishing boats employing about 70 fishermen, but owing to lack of wharfage facilities and shelter these fishermen are limited to about two months of fishing operations per year. This is an opportunity where not only could employment be provided by the construction of additional

wharfage facilities but employment could also be provided for these 70 fishermen if a fish plant could be erected there. With proper wharfage facilities there would be no unemployment problem at Maissonnette.

The same problem exists at Lower Caraquet where the old wharf was built 30 or 40 years ago and is now outmoded and practically useless. I would ask the minister to have a complete survey made at Lower Caraquet with respect to the possibility of a new location for a new wharf which could be used to advantage by the fishermen. We also have at Tracadie a situation which should be corrected without delay. The breakwater there also was constructed, at least 25 to 30 years ago and is now practically in ruins. The northern section of it is blocking the channel and this is a danger to navigation. I would urge the minister to give immediate attention to the removal of this breakwater which, as I have said, is interfering with navigation.

In conclusion, I would like the minister to state the position of his department with regard to the improvement of Bathurst harbour. During the last campaign my opponent had prominent advertisements in local newspapers to the effect that he had succeeded in obtaining \$3½ million for harbour improvements at Bathurst, but there is nothing about this in the estimates and I would like the minister to clarify the situation. The port of Bathurst is in great need of wharfage facilities. In fact there is no public wharf at Bathurst which can be used to advantage and in this period when we still have, at this late date in the middle of June, about 3,500 to 4,000 unemployed in Gloucester county it would be a good time to negotiate with respect to projects of this kind.

(Translation):

Mr. Gour: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to take part in this debate on the estimates of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Green). I think the hon. minister is a first rate politician for, when he introduced his estimates, his speech was more a political one than anything else.

After the promises of the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and of all Conservative candidates in the June 1957 campaign, repeated with even greater emphasis in the 1958 campaign, and considering that there were more unemployed in Canada than at any time, except under the Conservative administration of 1930-35, I thought and hoped that the Conservatives would fulfil at least one of their election promises. Unfortunately, such has not been the case.

I have taken a fairly close look at the expenses incurred during the Liberal admin-