

drains into this ditch, or the people living on the border of the River St. Pierre kept throwing all sorts of refuse into the River St. Pierre. The consequence is that the last three or four weeks, as I am informed, the River St. Pierre is no longer clean water at all; and it spreads over the country on the other side of the Lachine Canal, and a little on the north of the canal, that is in the village of St. Gabriel, or St. Gabriel ward and Cote St. Paul. So that this water spreads over there and has become stagnant water, dangerous to the health of the community. On this account the Board of Health has intervened. I understood it was the intention of the Board of Health to apply to these surrounding municipalities, of course, to establish the liability somewhere. But where the liability exists, I do not know, it is difficult to say. But certainly it is a menace to the public health there, and if the Government considers that it is responsible in any way for the condition of things which exists there at present, it would certainly be a very beneficial thing to remove the nuisance at once. I do not wish to say that the Government is responsible, but I merely put the facts before the committee in order that the Government may have some idea of the position of the matter. Has the Minister heard anything from the Board of Health?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. No, I have not. I rather wondered that I had not heard from the Board of Health when I learned that they were complaining. The matter was brought to my attention by the chief engineer of the department, who represented that it was a natural consequence and a necessary result of the previous expenditure that had been made. He reported to me that it was necessary, in order to make a complete job of what already had been done, and which involved an expenditure of \$141,900, that this work should be extended, and that the deepening from the south side of the canal should be made at the mouth of the river.

Mr. QUINN. I was probably not quite accurate in saying that the Board of Health had undertaken to communicate with the Government. I do not know that the agitation has reached that point. The distance between the Lachine Canal and the River St. Lawrence at that point is somewhat more than the hon. member for Maisonneuve (Mr. Prefontaine) has stated it. It is over a mile, I think, from the Lachine Canal to the river at that point, so that if it is the intention of the department to undertake the deepening of that canal, it would be well to provide also for covering it, not only there, but on the northern portion, that is, north of the canal, in order that it may not be filled up as it has been latterly. If it is left open, all sorts of refuse will be thrown into it, and there will be a continual difficulty in keeping it clear.

Mr. QUINN.

Mr. McMULLEN. I think it is quite evident that Lachine wants drainage, and I think this vote is clearly for the purpose of giving Lachine drainage. Now, I do think that some good, sensible reason should be presented for this vote before we are asked to pass it. The engineer merely reports to carry out what has been done before, that this vote is necessary. If the people of Lachine are using that stream for the purpose of draining their places and they have caused this nuisance to arise, it is the town of Lachine that are responsible for it, and not this Parliament.

Mr. HAGGART. I think I was asked to report upon the subject to Council, and I made a report. Anyway, it was urged strongly upon me that I should report to Council in reference to the matter. I forget whether I put in a written report or reported verbally to Council on the subject.

Mr. FOSTER. There is another important point here. Some hon. gentlemen say that the distance is nearly a mile and that \$40,000 is not at all sufficient.

Mr. HAGGART. If it is a covered drain it would not commence to do it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I will have the matter looked into very carefully before any portion of this expense is incurred and unless I am thoroughly satisfied that this is a matter which we might fairly be expected to deal with in respect to the appropriation we have made here I will not have any portion of the money expended.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. The city council of Montreal will certainly contribute an amount should the \$40,000 not be sufficient to make it a covered drain, and there is also the municipality of Cote St. Paul. The vote is absolutely necessary to give relief to these people.

Mr. SPROULE. It is quite evident that this is purely a provincial matter, but if the province can get out of it and get the Dominion Government to bear the cost they will be quite well pleased to have this money expended.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not think it is altogether fair to assume that this is a purely provincial work. There are a great many nice questions as to the construction of drains along our canals in small towns and it is not clear that there is no responsibility resting upon the Government in regard to the making of this kind of drainage. However, if the committee will give the amount I will repeat the assurance that I have referred to.

Mr. QUINN. Do I understand that the whole item is to be passed or whether there will be some question about dismissals.