

expressed in various parts of the house I am requesting one of my colleagues to move that the item of \$300,000 for Ellis bay be reduced to \$200,000 and that the following be added to the wording of the vote:

Conditional upon the public being permitted to use the wharf for landing purposes.

Mr. SHORT: I would suggest that the Minister of Public Works treat this item in the same way as the Postmaster General treated the item in connection with the Winnipeg postal employees, because it is a contentious matter and it is liable to bring forth a real deal of discussion. At this late hour that would be the best way to treat it.

Mr. ELLIOTT: This is a matter where there is a contract. A year ago the house committed itself to the expenditure in connection with Ellis bay.

Mr. ADSHEAD: In the estimates?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: How much is the contract?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Around half a million—\$494,000. An amount of \$187,000 worth of work has been done. The balance will be done this year and next year. It is thought, in view of the objections that were raised, it might be a good thing to defer the balance of \$100,000 which we are cutting off until next year.

Mr. SHORT: Last year the department expended \$150,000. Does the minister expect to expend \$200,000 this year?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. GARDINER: Is there a contract in existence at the present time for the completion of this work?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. GARDINER: It is rather a crude way of doing business to make a contract of that description without the consent of parliament.

Mr. ELLIOTT: We had the consent of parliament last year to the initial expenditure. That is the practice that has been followed practically since confederation. Where we are committed to a work involving an amount larger than can be expended in one year, the department have found that they can get the work done for a much smaller amount per cubic yard by letting the whole contract, and that is the practice that has been followed by the various governments in administering the department.

Mr. GARDINER: What is the department paying per cubic yard under this contract?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Fifty cents per cubic yard for the removal of approximately 623,068 cubic yards of packed gravel and clay and \$5.50 per cubic yard for 37,080 cubic yards of rock.

Mr. SHORT: Will this amount of \$200,000 complete the contract?

Mr. ELLIOTT: No, it will take about \$175,000 more.

The CHAIRMAN: It is moved by Mr. Adshead that the vote of \$300,000 for Ellis bay be reduced by \$290,000.

Amendment (Mr. Adshead) negatived.

Mr. CARDIN: I beg to move:

That the item for Ellis bay amounting to \$300,000 be reduced to \$200,000 and that the following be added to the wording of the vote. "Conditional upon the public being permitted to use the wharf for landing purposes".

Mr. GARDINER: What is the intention of the minister with regard to this being conditional upon the public being allowed to use the wharf? What does that mean?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It means that the public shall have all the advantage of this wharf as a public wharf so that vessels of all kinds, whether they are connected with the company or not, shall have the right to use the wharf the same as they can use a government wharf.

Mr. GARDINER: How many vessels will this wharf accommodate?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is a very large wharf. I think it is over a mile altogether and it will accommodate a large number of vessels. Something like three hundred vessels outside of the company's vessels landed there in 1927.

Mr. GARDINER: What business would they be transacting there if they are not transacting business of the company?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Taking supplies, taking passengers, fishermen, and so forth. Then the harbour also provides a very good shelter. On various occasions, vessels have put in there for shelter, and on one occasion, I am informed by the man in charge of a boat that was in distress, that if it had not been for this shelter the passengers on the boat would probably have lost their lives. If anybody will look at the map, he can easily see that it is the most suitable harbour for a shelter in that part of the St. Lawrence.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not know that it is of much use for the minister to move for a reduction in this item. I think he might as well take the full amount, because he is going