

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The work was requested by the district engineer in a report dated November 30, and is required to repair the damage done to the wharf and freight shed by a fire which occurred on the night of November 6, 1930.

Mr. POWER: In what county?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Montmorency.

Mr. POULIOT: I would like the hon. minister to give me some information with regard to the wharf at Rivière du Loup. The other day the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) said that I should have had more works done by the previous government, but he knows that the late government treated my constituency with all fairness. May I ask what amount was voted last year for the repairs of the wharf at Rivière du Loup?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The appropriation for 1930-31 was \$22,100.

Mr. POULIOT: Was it taken for granted by the minister that the work would be carried on by the same men who had worked in previous years?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No.

Mr. POULIOT: Was it decided by the department that this work would be carried on by day labour instead of by contract provided that the same men who had been working for the previous years would continue to work?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): All I know is that this work was started in July last by day labour. Although this item amounted to \$22,100, this work was started by day labour by the former government.

Mr. POULIOT: Was it understood that that work was to be done by day labour instead of by contract because the men who had worked previously had performed that work to the satisfaction of the department, and that if it should be necessary to have the work done otherwise it would be done by contract?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I understand that the hon. gentleman with his knowledge of local conditions recommended that this work should be done by day labour; it was started on that basis and has been continued.

Mr. POULIOT: Yes, but the minister escapes my question; he skates all around it. My question was a short and clear one; I would like to know if on account of the work done by these men it was decided by the department to have the work continued this year by day labour instead of by contract.

(Mr. Power.)

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That matter was taken up before I took charge of the department, and I do not know just what was the moving consideration of my predecessor in starting this work by day labour.

Mr. POULIOT: Was there any memorandum in the files to that effect? I am sure a definite decision was made by the former minister, because he told me at that time that if the work was to be done by new men he would have it done by contract instead of by day labour. Do I understand the minister to say that the amount voted last year was \$22,100?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes.

Mr. POULIOT: And how much of that was spent?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The information I have is that that amount will total \$15,100 when the accounts have all been received up to the end of the fiscal year. I understand there is a revote of \$7,000 in this item.

Mr. POULIOT: Upon whose recommendation were these men dismissed and replaced by others?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I can assure my hon. friend it was not upon his recommendation.

Mr. POULIOT: The minister is one of the ablest lawyers I have ever argued with, but he does not answer my question; I am asking him for a name and for nothing else.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I really do not remember. It was done in the ordinary course of events; my hon. friend knows just how and why these things happen.

Mr. POULIOT: Does the minister desire me to hold him responsible for the whole thing? I would like to know just who was at the bottom of this. I would like to know just who asked the minister to appoint new men in the place of the old.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I can assure my hon. friend I am not seeking to avoid any responsibility whatever in connection with the action taken. This action was perfectly regular, natural, customary and normal in every way, and I am sure it was just such action as my hon. friend would have taken had he been in my position.

Mr. POULIOT: But I would not have hidden anything from the committee; I would have told whether it was Tom, Jack or Charlie. Is the minister insinuating that there