

Mr. BARBER: This is really to cover the construction of another wharf?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. BARBER: They are not moving the old float; they are constructing a new one.

Mr. CARDIN: They have not gone into the details of the matter, but it is being studied. The \$7,000 being provided for protection work on Nicomen island is for the construction of a groin to protect the river bank on the south side of Nicomen island in the vicinity of McDonalds Landing. Erosion is taking place to such an extent as to endanger the main dyke. Our attention was drawn to this by the district engineer in January, 1938. He advised that a recent examination revealed that the bank is cut back to within 130 feet of the main dyke and he contends that it is essential that this erosion should be stopped.

Mr. BARBER: The minister has intimated that at times members neglect to bring to the attention of the minister certain needed works in their districts. He cannot make that charge against me in connection with one particular work, namely, the landing opposite McMillan island wharf which was constructed over a year ago. It was understood at the time that this wharf was being constructed as a ferry landing, and it was made known throughout the district that in the near future a similar landing would be constructed on the north side, somewhere in the neighbourhood of Albion. We were encouraged to believe that a ferry service would be inaugurated by the provincial government, but there is only a landing on one side of the river. I took up this matter with the minister on May 16, and I received his reply under date of June 20. He claimed in his letter that the wharf on McMillan island was constructed for the accommodation of the fishermen and small boats. If that was the sole reason for construction, then there was no reason for expending \$5,284.53, because the landing on the north side was constructed for about \$1,800. As I said before, the main reason for constructing this landing was for ferry use. Then the minister also pointed out that there is a small float at Albion for the use of fishermen. The intimation was given to the people of that district that this McMillan island landing was being constructed so that a ferry service could be provided, and that a similar landing would be constructed on the other side. I know the minister will contend we have nothing to do with ferries, but this government has undertaken to build a ferry landing on one side of the river and has refused to build a similar landing on the

other side. I wonder if that is due to the fact that the other side is in another district which may be considered to be not as favourable. I agree with the minister in this, that the responsibility for operation of ferries rests with the provincial government, but in this case this government constructed a ferry landing on the south side, it is only fair, I submit, that the same construction should take place on the north side. The McMillan wharf is absolutely useless unless it can be connected with similar construction on the other side.

On the north side of the river we have many industries, and a demand for the products of the south. So there is the necessity of providing a crossing. I believe there has been a promise from the provincial government that if the federal government would construct these wharves, the provincial government would consider establishing a ferry service. I trust the minister will give his further very serious consideration to this request.

Mr. CARDIN: Mr. Chairman, in view of the serious commitment I made yesterday and in view of the repeated requests of my hon. friend in regard to this matter, possibly we can find a few precedents and I can assure my hon. friend that I will give my best attention to his representations.

Mr. TAYLOR (Nanaimo): Will the minister explain the item of improvements to assembly wharf at Nanaimo, \$8,000, and say when it is proposed to have these improvements finished?

Mr. CARDIN: It is contemplated that the work will be done this year.

Item agreed to.

Harbours and rivers—Generally—improvements, maintenance of service, repairs and additions. \$500,000.

Mr. STEWART: There are two items of \$500,000 under "generally." Were there similar amounts last year, or is this an extra amount of \$500,000?

Mr. CARDIN: The first item, No. 591, is the ordinary general item that has been in for several years. The other one, No. 593, is to cover employment works under contemplation for this year, and this is the only one of such items that is included in the estimates of the Department of Public Works. This item 593 includes protection works generally. I am sure that my hon. friend when he was Minister of Public Works received a number of requests for work of this nature, and no doubt he tried to limit them as much as he could, as I have done. But there are certain cases where our responsibility is not much disputed. In certain districts where there is