

the trade of the port to pay its fair share of the expenditure which is made for their benefit.

Mr. BURPEE (St. John). In explanation I desire to say that the Government have the assurance that the revenue raised by the population will be sufficient to pay the interest on the money that is going to be advanced, not only on the \$500,000, but also on the \$250,000 to improve the harbor. But the progress of St. John harbor will depend as much on private interests as on Government measures. No doubt improvements will be made by the Commission, but it is, after all, on the mercantile interest and on the energy of private citizens it depends for its success.

Mr. ANGLIN. The hon. Minister of Finance must have misunderstood my remarks, or he would not have argued that the question of placing the harbor in Commission had not been discussed for years. I said it had, but I declared that the present scheme, although I do not yet understand it, is not known to the citizens. One reason given for that action was the desirability of securing the western trade. I am anxious to secure that trade, but to place the harbor in Commission will not assist it in the slightest degree, unless some improvement is necessary which can only be carried out by a Commission. I have already stated that some dredging is necessary, but the harbor is just as deep and in as good a condition as it was many years ago, and is capable of receiving the largest vessel afloat. The reason why a dredge had not been applied was because there was not sufficient work to keep it constantly employed. The importations of the port are not more than what they were fifteen years ago, and that is the reason why the value of property has declined. The hon. member for King's (Mr. Domville) talked of the necessity of making St. John a public harbor. I hardly know what he means. It is now a public harbor, open to all the vessels of the world.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Will the hon. gentleman tell me that the harbor of St. John is a public harbor in the face of our charter, in which we assert that we own the bed of the river, the fisheries and everything else? That is why I made the assertion that it should be a public harbor.

Mr. ANGLIN. Provision is made to levy dues to keep the port in proper order, and that is one of the sources of revenue to be handed to the Commission. It does not make any distinction between a ship from one part of the world and a ship from another. It is simply entrusted with the management of the harbor, because St. John was supposed to have a special interest in its proper management. I believe that on the whole the Common Council of the city of St. John have managed the harbor fairly well. I am entirely opposed myself to putting the harbor in charge of a Commission, and I believe a great many of the people of St. John agree with me on that point; but though I differ from other hon. members on this subject, we are all agreed that if it is to be put in the hands of a Commission then the whole of this property should be under their control. I do not think we will save any money by this transaction, but we will find that we have added enormously to the expenditure by the change, that works will be undertaken which are not necessary, that others will be undertaken which are of a speculative character which will not prove to be useful. If we get the money at a little lower rate of interest so much the better, but as the trade of St. John must pay the cost, whatever money is advanced, we should not be betrayed into expenditures not absolutely necessary, because we are paying less for the money. We are all desirous of seeing the trade of St. John revive and increase, and we are all prepared to make some sacrifices and ask our fellow-citizens to make some sacrifices in order to accomplish these ends.

Resolutions agreed to and reported.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN introduced Bill (No. 163) relating to the harbor of St. John in the Province of New Brunswick.

Bill read the first time.

FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, for the House to go again into Committee of Supply.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I desire again to bring to the attention of this House a measure which I consider of some importance. We are about to entrust the Government with large sums of money, and I think this is the time to bring before the House the principle of the Bill which I had the honor of introducing during the first days of the Session. At this stage of the Session, I do not believe this Bill can reach its second reading and be passed by the House; therefore, I take the only opportunity I have of placing before the House and the country my views upon this subject. Last Session I brought before the House a measure to prevent fraud in connection with the expenditure of money on public contracts. That measure was referred to a Special Committee, which reported it unanimously to the House. The Government have not chosen to take that measure under their own patronage; on the contrary, both last Session and this Session they have prevented it from coming before the public. In order to avoid giving you the trouble, Mr. Speaker, of looking for precedents in connection with this matter, I will state that my desire is not to bring the Bill before the House.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman refers to a Bill that is on the Orders of the Day.

Mr. CASGRAIN. That is only incidental.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. gentleman refers to a Bill that was thrown out last year, and he refers to the same Bill which was introduced this year, and the proceedings that have taken place upon it. I think the hon. gentleman cannot refer to that Bill.

Mr. CASGRAIN. My reference to the Bill is only incidental to the motion I have to make. It is only explanatory of the motion, and is not with the view of bringing the Bill before the House at all; so that my hon. friend may make his mind easy on that point.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair, chair.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I have a right to speak to the question of order. My object, as I say, is not to bring this Bill before the House. That has been refused to me, and I understand the Government continues to refuse it, and although I was told a few days ago by the Prime Minister that he would give me a day, he has not done so; but I suppose he would do as he did last year, give me a day after prorogation. Apart from this Bill there is the other question.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I must rise again to a question of order. Whilst the Speaker is looking over his authorities, I think the hon. gentleman should not proceed. Until the question of order is decided, he should not proceed.

Mr. CASGRAIN. You do not know what my motion is. When it comes you will see whether it is in order or not.

Mr. SPEAKER. On the motion to go into Committee of Supply grievances may be placed before the House and the Government. Of course the hon. member cannot make any motion relating to an Order of the Day or a notice of motion, and he may not speak upon questions referred to in them; all he can do is to bring forward grievances.