

Mr. CARVELL: No.

Mr. CURRIE: The hon. member for St. John is well known to be very friendly towards this item. This is new work and it is not needed at all. It can very well stand over during the war, and I think the minister should strike the item out. There is no argument in favour of it that I can see as far as the rest of the country is concerned.

Mr. REID: We will let the item stand.

Mr. CURRIE: I will be right here to fight it the next time it comes up.

Mr. McKENZIE: I am not here to fight for St. John—it can take care of itself—but there seems to be an argument in favour of leaving it in. The minister tells us that he has to call for tenders and that he is likely to accept one.

Mr. REID: I have not accepted any. Tenders were called for but no action was taken.

Mr. CARVELL: How many were received?

Mr. McKENZIE: It is not usual to ask for tenders and then strike out the item.

Mr. REID: Six regular tenders and four irregular.

Mr. CARVELL: Irregular in what way?

Mr. REID: We required a certified cheque with each tender, and no cheques were sent. Those that were irregular were considerably higher than the lowest tender that was regular. I can say that the lowest tender is not that of a New Brunswick firm.

Mr. MACDONALD: Why do you not tell us all about them and who they are?

Mr. REID: I would not have any objection except that I have just got a memorandum now from the deputy and the tenders have not been submitted to council. It is not customary to give information about a matter of this kind until it has been submitted to council.

Mr. PUGSLEY: If the item is to stand over for a day or two I would be agreeable, but otherwise I would like to present some very strong reasons for passing the item. This is a revote. The item was voted by Parliament two years ago and tenders were called by the minister for this work which was deemed very necessary and apparently essential for the protection of the harbour. Owing to the lowest tender being higher than the amount the minister thought he ought to expend,

he decided to call for new tenders. New tenders were called for under the previous vote. This is really a revote.

Mr. CURRIE: Will the hon. gentleman tell me why it is not mentioned here that it is a revote? It says:

Extension of and repairs to Negro Point breakwater, \$250,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I do not know; but my hon. friend will find that what I say is true. It may be that tenders were called for to be paid out of the general vote for St. John harbour.

Mr. REID: Yes, that is the reason.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I understand it was decided to make a change in the kind of stone that might be used. The previous tenders required that granite only should be used in the breakwater. A change was made in the hope that the tenders would be for a considerably lower amount. But, undoubtedly the vote in Parliament two years ago authorized the calling for tenders. The reason the work was not gone on with before was the belief that by making this change it would be done at a lower cost.

Mr. CARVELL: I am willing that the item should stand, but I do not go back on what I said last evening. This is a new work in my judgment and I want to be fairly consistent. I opposed the rest of the new works and I oppose this.

Mr. SINCLAIR: What is the use of allowing this item to stand if we will not embark upon any new work?

Mr. REID: The reason I ask that it be allowed to stand instead of striking it out is that I am only acting for the department and I would like to submit it to my colleagues.

Mr. SINCLAIR: It seems to be agreed that, the Minister of Finance having made that announcement, the committee is bound by it. I agree with my hon. friend from North Simcoe (Mr. Currie) that Stayner and St. John ought to be treated alike. I am prepared to vote to strike that item out.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I sincerely trust that the most my hon. friends would ask would be that the matter should stand a day or two so that it can be looked into. It is not a new work in the ordinary sense. The breakwater has been extended out from Negro point comparatively close to Part-ridge island. The department has done a lot of work, has built wharves, and the