

Supply—Public Works

is, dredging and construction works. The minister should not be surprised to learn that Bathurst, our county town, has no public wharf. Some years ago, there was a bit of a wharf that we used to call the public wharf, but it was first damaged and afterwards carried away by the currents on the Nipisiguit river; consequently, our county town has no public wharf at the present time. That is why I am of the opinion that the time has come to stress the need and the necessity of building a public wharf at Bathurst, as well as of carrying out important dredging operations at the entrance to our harbour, as well as inside it.

Still on the subject of these mining developments, I might say that I know that the companies involved are looking for deep water harbours suited to the shipping of iron ore. I have already pointed out to the minister the need of looking into the possibilities of the Point Marcel and Shippigan harbours.

Last February I asked a question with regard to the harbour at Tracadie. In his answer the Minister of Public Works informed me that the breakwater on the gully and the dredging of the harbour at Tracadie had cost, up to now, \$325,092.69. The minister's department has spent a considerable amount of money on the development of this harbour since 1930 but, as he already knows, the breakwaters are just about destroyed and the gully, as it is called, is almost entirely choked by quicksand and is therefore of no practical use whatever. So that, in spite of this outlay of more than \$325,000 which has been made over the last twenty years, the harbour should be dredged and the breakwaters reconstructed. I know that the hon. minister instructed his officers, this winter, to study the situation of the gully and of the harbour at Tracadie.

In closing my remarks, I venture to ask him whether he has received a report on this subject and whether we may expect his department to provide the money necessary for the reconstruction of these breakwaters and the dredging of Tracadie harbour.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. member's first question, I must say that I have not yet seen the report in question, but that I shall study it closely as soon as it comes before me for consideration.

Secondly, I cannot reveal the government's intentions beforehand, because the estimates are never disclosed in advance. Besides, I have already explained that the cabinet must first approve the recommendations of each

department with regard to their respective estimates. Thus, it remains for the hon. member, as well as for myself, to hope that the government will consider these recommendations favourably, but there is nothing to be done before we have received and studied the report here in Ottawa.

(Text):

Mr. Noseworthy: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister would give me a little information on a point about which I am quite interested, since he is so good-natured tonight.

In looking through his estimates I notice that his employees are classified as permanent, temporary and casual. I notice that there are approximately 6,000 temporary and about 1,800 permanent employees. I have totalled the numbers listed as temporary and permanent in order to arrive at those figures. What I would like to know is just why you have that difference between approximately 6,000 temporary and 1,800 permanent employees.

First of all, why is there such a difference? Second, I would like to know the conditions which determine when an employee becomes permanent. I have cases of people who have been working a considerable number of years in the department, and they are still temporary. As a matter of fact, I should like to know who has the final say as to when one becomes permanent. I have one case of a veteran with a number of years of service, who was recommended for permanency by his department. He was recommended by the civil service commission; nevertheless he was retired and did not get his permanency. All I could find out was that someone somewhere had held it up. What is the story about these temporary and permanent employees?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): It is quite a story. You generally come into the service through the civil service commission. You are on the eligible list, and when a request is made by a department the first person on the list is probably sent over by the civil service commission. The commission issue their certificate and the person goes to the department. For the first six months he is on a trial basis. As time goes on he gets experience and one day, if we find we are not over our quota of permanent positions, we recommend that this gentleman become permanent.

This recommendation goes to the civil service commission and they inquire into the functions and work of this gentleman. They compare our permanent and temporary