

Supply—Public Works

county, \$75,000, to repair the breakwater, which was carried away by a storm. It had to be repaired because there is a fleet of steamers running from there carrying paper to New York, and it was absolutely necessary. I am in favour of it; I think it is eminently in the public interest.

Item agreed to.

Prince Edward Island

Basin Head—boat harbour, \$31,000.
 Southport—wharf repairs, \$4,000.
 Victoria—wharf repairs, \$2,300.
 Wood Islands—harbour, \$200,000.

Mr. STEWART: Could we have some particulars with regard to this item of \$200,000 for a harbour at Wood Islands?

Mr. CARDIN: This amount of \$200,000 is to be devoted to the cost of creating a boat harbour at Wood Islands, Prince Edward Island, to permit the operation of a ferry service between this place and a point in Nova Scotia. This harbour would also serve as a place of refuge for some seventy fishing boats. I am informed that a resolution has been passed by the provincial legislature requesting this expenditure.

Mr. STEWART: Could the minister say where it is located?

Mr. CARDIN: My information is that the present ferry service at Borden, at the west end of the island, provides the only entrance to and exit from the island, and that in the eastern portion they have to contend with inadequate transportation facilities for the marketing of their products in Nova Scotia. The distance is practically doubled, with a corresponding increase in railroad rates. The value of the traffic to be served by the proposed development is estimated at \$200,000 annually, consisting of exports of live stock and farm produce, totalling \$110,000 and imports of coal and general merchandise, \$90,000. Wood Islands is situated at the southernmost point of Queens county on the Northumberland straits coast of Prince Edward Island. The establishment of this ferry service will enable the government to dispense with the subsidies now given in connection with the steamship service on the Charlottetown-Pictou route, amounting to \$30,000, and also the service between Sydney and Bras d'Or lake ports on the west coast of Cape Breton, amounting to \$22,500.

Mr. BENNETT: Who will supply the ferry for the new harbour?

Mr. CARDIN: Probably it will be a private enterprise. We are preparing the harbour.

[Mr. Kinley.]

Mr. BENNETT: Does the minister mean to say there is a possibility of that being done and the subsidies being dispensed with, down in the maritime provinces?

Mr. CARDIN: That has been represented to me.

Mr. BENNETT: There is a \$30,000 subsidy now in connection with the service between Charlottetown and Pictou, and a subsidy of \$22,500 for the service from Cape Breton to Prince Edward Island. Now we are to build a \$200,000 harbour where there was no harbour before, and establish a ferry service, and the minister says there will be no subsidy. Will they ask the railway to build the ferry? This seems to be the beginning of an expenditure that may run to half a million dollars. All who have been there know that Prince Edward Island has a great many harbours and a population of about eighty thousand. Now we are going to start a new harbour that will involve annual expenditures but will do away with the necessity of spending money on the Pictou route and the Cape Breton island route. I suppose they will call this new harbour Cardin, and on the Nova Scotia side I suppose the port will be called Hope's Desire. I should like to know how this ferry is going to be maintained.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I should like to say a word in regard to this Wood Islands ferry. The right hon. leader of the opposition has spoken about it, but when he made his tour in the last election he forgot Prince Edward Island entirely.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, we put the present ferry there and put through a road to Charlottetown.

Mr. SINCLAIR: We are establishing a national park on the island this year, something that was not thought of by the previous government, and we felt that the ferry at Wood Islands would take care of the congestion of freight at Borden. There is one thing I should like to bring out in this connection. At the time of confederation we were promised continuous communication with the mainland, but to-day a person wishing to leave the island with a truck-load of produce is unable to do so. This Wood Islands ferry would give us communication with the mainland, particularly with the mining districts of Nova Scotia, where we could ship our produce.

Mr. BENNETT: Who is to maintain the ferry?

Mr. SINCLAIR: Well, it is going to be a private enterprise. We are going to subsidize it, and private enterprise will run the ferry.