

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is said this will enable steamers to stop safely at the wharf.

Mr. AMES. It will not enable anybody to get ashore.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is an isolated pier, of course.

Mr. AMES. Perhaps the minister will allow me to refresh his memory a little about this work. Douglastown is a very small point near Gaspé. There is practically no shipping there, though occasionally a steamer discharges a solitary passenger. The government has built a pier nearly one-third of a mile from the shore that is gradually, year by year with the expenditure of a few thousand dollars, creeping its way across the bay to the shore. It is already built some distance partly under water and partly above water. I suppose it is hoped that in the course of time, scores of years hence, perhaps, the land will be reached and the people will be able to go ashore without having to reship in a small boat. If the minister will let us know how much it is going to cost to actually complete this operation, perhaps the money could be voted, and we would not have this hardy annual coming up every session.

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend (Mr. Ames) is at bay, if I may so speak, about this matter—

Mr. AMES. Does the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) mean 'at sea?'

Mr. LEMIEUX. No at bay, because this is at the entrance to the Bay of Gaspé, one of the most exposed points of the whole coast of Gaspé. When the hon. gentleman says that Douglastown is a small settlement, he is at sea because it is one of the more respectable settlements on the coast of Gaspé in point of numbers.

Mr. AMES. Six hundred people all told.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Well, that is quite a respectable settlement. Douglastown was settled more than a century ago by the United Empire loyalists, being one of the few places in Gaspé settled by the loyalists. The people there are fishermen. This is one of the points which are most exposed, and my hon. friend has heard of the terrible disaster which took place there some years ago. The fishermen at Douglastown and Point Peter, the next settlement, fish on what are called the Orphan's banks off New Brunswick. They leave on Monday morning and come back on Friday evening the principal season being the fall of the year. The only protection they have in their harbour is this block; it is not a wharf, but a breakwater. It has rendered valuable service to the fishermen at that point. The hon. gentleman is also unjust

Mr. AMES.

—unwittingly, I hope— when he says that Douglastown will always be a small place. He has travelled in that country and he knows that the railway is under construction. By the end of next summer the line—the Atlantic, Quebec, and Western Railway Company's line—will have reached Douglastown and the Bay of Gaspé. The terminus will not be far from Douglastown, and that place will become a very important settlement. There is already quite a trade at that point.

Mr. AMES. What I want to know from the Minister of Public Works is how long it is going to take and what it is going to cost to have this Douglastown pier connected with the mainland, as, I suppose, is expected to be done?

Mr. PUGSLEY. My department has no intention, and I have no intention, of connecting that pier with the shore. For reasons which the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) has given, the pier is of very great service without being so connected. It is a breakwater and affords shelter for fishermen and others which entirely justifies its construction. Not having any present intention of connecting it with the shore, I have not prepared an estimate of the cost of doing so. It will be time enough to prepare such an estimate when we contemplate doing the work.

Mr. AMES. Is it not a fact that at present it is a danger to navigation with a considerable portion of it under water?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I think not. Every breakwater must have a portion of it under water.

Father point—wharf repairs, \$1,000.

Mr. AMES. I am sorry that, in this case, I cannot agree with the minister in his cutting down of his estimates. It is understood that some money was to be spent at Father Point, but, evidently, this is abandoned, and only \$1,000 asked for to make small repairs. I am one of those who believe that Father Point should be developed so that ocean steamers passing up the gulf could stop there and discharge mails. There is not a deep water wharf between Gaspé and Quebec, and I do not know any place where steamers could actually stop close by the shore except at Father Point. I hope this will be taken into consideration, and that, when the finances of the country permit it, the work will be proceeded with.

Mr. LEMIEUX. It is true that the best point for landing passengers from ocean steamers would be Father Point, but for some reason, probably political, forty or fifty years ago, Rimouski was selected as the landing place. There is a splendid wharf there nearly a mile long. In order