

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: What is the depth of the Pitt river up to Pitt lake?

The WITNESS: Probably 10 feet of water there.

Mr. GREEN: That is navigable all the way?

The WITNESS: Yes, it is navigable for small craft.

*By Mr. Green:*

Q. What will be the effect of your taking control of the Pitt river, for example in so far as the people using the Pitt river are concerned. I imagine it will be used for booming and there will be other traffic?—A. Yes, and there is a lot of fishing. We could not interfere with navigation, just the water lots on the foreshore, that is all we are interested in.

Q. Would you be able to charge fees?—A. We do not charge fees; we only charge foreshore rentals, yes. They are charged at the present time.

Q. Who collects them at the present time?—A. The Department of Transport.

Q. Then the revenue from these foreshore leases, whatever they are, will be switched from the Department of Transport to New Westminster Harbour Commissions?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you any improvements in mind for the Pitt river?—A. They are only taking care of leases and supervising the storage of logs and the use of the foreshore that is leased.

Q. Are you intending to install any improvements in the way of storage booming grounds, or things of that type? It seem to me if you take over the jurisdiction of the river there you would collect the fees and you would then be responsible for seeing that there are proper booming grounds and piling and that sort of thing?—A. That is the intent, yes. There is a certain amount of piling there now. That has been driven as the tenant wanted it; but he has to have supervision so that he keeps within bounds with respect to the lease.

Q. Who has been doing that piling in the past?—A. The lessee.

Q. The lessee put them there himself?—A. And they are supposed, under the Navigable Water Protection Act, to get permission to drive any piles.

Q. Do the people who are using that river now know that the New Westminster Harbour Commission have taken it over?—A. They know that we have been administering it for a short time now, following a request to us from the Department of Transport. We were asked to administer it for them for the last few months; and we have had discussions with a great many of them and they are quite agreeable to it because they feel that they have closer touch with us to assist them in their difficulties.

Q. You have had no objections from anybody concerned?—A. None whatever.

Q. What about the municipalities? I see that there are several municipalities affected; for instance, the city of Port Coquitlam, the municipality of Pitt Meadows and the municipality of Maple Ridge. Have they raised any question about it?—A. They have raised no objection. You take the situation of Port Coquitlam, a portion of that is in the harbour at the present time as it comes down below the mouth of the Pitt river, so the municipality of Port Coquitlam is included.

Q. Mr. Reid, you said something about ice and I noticed that the eastern members of the committee pricked up their ears when you mentioned that. I am afraid you are going to give our west coast harbours a black eye if you do not explain your remark.—A. As I explained, this ice that we have there for short spells is ice that forms up the river.