

The reason it was not proceeded with was that the contract was not arranged for.

Mr. BLAIN. How much was expended last year?

Mr. FISHER. Nothing. The vote was taken very late in the season as my hon. friends know and nothing could be arranged for for fall work. The contract is now let in order that the work may be proceeded with early this spring.

Mr. BLAIN. What will be the total cost?

Mr. FISHER. \$14,200. The amount of the contract is \$12,875.

Mr. BLAIN. What county is this in?

Mr. FISHER. Guysborough. Mr. Hugh Macdonald, North Sydney, is the contractor.

Church point—extension of groyne and repairs to wharf, \$2,000.

Mr. AMES. I think the government have had very difficult work at Church Point if one can judge from the reports. In 1901-2, the work was rebuilt, in 1902-3, 134 feet of it had to be rebuilt; in 1903-4, the reconstruction of the wharf wall was necessary and in 1905-6 it was necessary to spend \$2,000 in rebuilding the wharf wall. I would like to know if this is going to continue year after year.

Mr. FISHER. Unfortunately wharfs are very frequently damaged by storms and the undermining of the sea. A system was adopted years ago of building a good many of these wharfs in a way that the engineer does not like to continue, which resulted in the construction of wharfs of what I might call a temporary character. The department is now recommending very much more complete and permanent structures, but in the earlier days these wharfs were frequently constructed in a way that has involved very heavy repairs. That was one of the reasons why the votes this year and in future years will call for larger sums.

Mr. FOWLER. I think it would be well if the minister would explain to us the character of this temporary work and the character of the permanent work. It is very important to know if we have to build these wharfs year after year. There has been a great deal of money wasted at Church Point and we would like to have some information from the minister with respect to the difference between the temporary and permanent character of these works.

Mr. FISHER. If the hon. gentleman will be good enough to look up the report for the year, page 166, he will find a full description of this work. Works of a temporary character were built with native timber and not with concrete. Lately we have been using creosoted timber and concrete on top.

Mr. FOWLER. Are you importing the timber?

Mr. FISHER. We have had to import creosoted timber in the past. There is a question before the department of establishing a creosoted plant, but it has not yet been determined upon. It involves a very heavy investment, but if we are going to require a large quantity of creosoted timber there is no doubt it will pay but still the department has not yet arrived at a decision upon that point. Personally, I would be in favour of it but as acting minister I do not feel justified in starting a new departure of that kind.

Mr. FOWLER. I think it is a very important matter and that it should be taken up by the department. It perhaps may not be a proper thing for the department itself to establish that plant, but it might adopt the plan that the minister has adopted in the Department of Agriculture and give a certain bonus to any person who will establish a plant of that kind. I think it is a matter that certainly should be considered. If our native timber is creosoted it will last about as well as imported timber. In addition to which you will provide a home market for your own timber.

Mr. FISHER. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman.

Mr. AMES. Is the Church Point work to be done by days's work?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. AMES. Is it proposed to finally complete it this year?

Mr. FISHER. We will complete whatever repairs are necessary now. I would not like to say what may be necessary next year because it depends upon the storms, &c.

Mr. AMES. It would seem as if this history of building up and taking down should be closed.

Cow bay (Port Morien)—Repairs to breakwater, \$10,000.

Mr. FISHER. This is the continuation of a work that was commenced some years ago.

Mr. AMES. On this work \$200,000 has been expended altogether, and \$60,000 of that within the last four years. It is a large work to keep on doing by day's work from year to year; is it not possible to have a careful estimate made, tenders called for and a contract given to complete the work? I do not think we are getting satisfactory results from the present system.

Mr. FISHER. For repairs of this kind I do not believe any estimate could be made or that any one would care to take it as a contract.

Mr. JOHNSTON. This is a work of very great importance to the community. The