

"Thoroughly equip our Georgian Bay ports, our national waterways——"

I sympathize with that proposition.

"—our St. Lawrence route——"

I sympathize with that proposition.

"—and our ports on the Atlantic coast."

I sympathize with that proposition. Then he says abolish if necessary the harbour dues on the Atlantic coast and on the Georgian Bay. Will the hon. gentleman tell us what is involved in that ?

Has the Hon. Gentleman Considered the Consequence

Of abolishing the harbour dues in any harbour in Canada ? Take for instance the harbour of the city of Quebec. The city of Quebec collects dues upon shipping. It is a practice common in all ports to impose dues upon shipping, these dues being funded and expended in improving harbour facilities, the constructing of docks, dredging, elevators and providing other harbour advantages. The harbour commissioners have incurred debts in order to provide these facilities and the only revenue wherewith they can pay their debts is derived from the dues collected from shipping. The hon. gentleman proposes to make free our Atlantic ports, our inland ports, the ports of Montreal, Quebec, St. John and others. It is in the power of parliament to abolish the dues collected by the city of Quebec. The city of Quebec to-day has borrowed and owes for money expended in improving its harbour, \$5,803,538, and the only way whereby it can pay that money is by imposing dues upon shipping. The hon. gentleman proposes to abolish those dues.

If He Abolishes Those Dues He has to Assume the Debt of the Quebec Harbour.

You then had to add to the cost of this scheme the debt of the harbour of the city of Quebec, amounting to \$5,803,538. Then, coming to Montreal, the harbour commissioners of Montreal have been doing their best to improve the harbour of that great city, and they have expended and are authorized to expend \$8,054,156. If, Mr. Speaker, we carry out the hon. gentleman's policy and wipe out the dues upon the shipping that comes to that harbour, no matter how desirable it would be if the circumstances allowed, how are we to meet the debt of the harbour commissioners of the city of Montreal ? We have to pay that debt as well. Add that debt to the debt of the harbour of Quebec and add that to the other Bill

And We Have \$255,971,233, as the Ascertained Cost in Giving Effect to the Hon. Gentleman's Scheme.

Again I deplore the insignificance of our little scheme alongside of this one. That represents the two harbours of Quebec and Montreal, and I am proud to say they are not the only harbours in Canada. There are other harbours that have debts. I need not mention them all. We have harbours on the Atlantic coast. I do not know to what extent they are in debt.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.). There is no debt on the harbour of Halifax.