

Pension Rights

of which the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Green) and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hees) should be fully aware. It is a problem which I know full well is probably also to some extent the responsibility of the people of the area. However, I would draw to the attention of the minister the following fact: this government has so frequently told us—I have always thought with sincerity, which is probably the case—that we should not spend too many dollars in the United States because every dollar so spent causes that much greater imbalance of trade between our two countries. I say if this government is completely sincere then it will see to it that we have the works in our own area to make it possible for the Canadian boat owners, pleasure craft owners and others to spend their money on the Canadian side. It is not merely that the people of White Rock are asking for something unusual—the former government recognized the need four or five years ago when they began the construction of the present breakwater.

It is a matter of fact, though, that this government is carrying out the same policy as the former administration carried on, and the people in my area feel, and rightly, that there is some insincerity here on the part of the present administration.

On the other side of the bay we have the Beach Grove area which is another area, used as a summer resort, and with all the facilities of such a resort, but requiring a seawall of some kind. Our American cousins, again, have recognized the need by building a sea wall on the Point Roberts side, but it is interesting to note that when you come from the United States at Point Roberts and wander up the beach you can find a line which marks specifically the point at which the Americans have quit work on the seawall. It is a wooden wall, but on the Canadian side we have the remnants of a wall, built some 50 years ago, which is quite useless. The swell of the sea sweeps across the vast sandy beach on to the lawns and into the new homes which have been built in that area. I sincerely ask the minister to have his departmental officials look once again into this question to discover whether it would be possible to do something to stop these homes being broken and to save the lawns and the fine shrubs in that district as well.

In so far as the breakwater is concerned there is in White Rock itself south of the Semiamhoo park a small stream, the Campbell river which lends itself beautifully to use as a boat haven. In fact, not so many years ago a private concern thought of building such a haven. All it requires today is a

bit of dredging, some rock in the form of a breakwater and a float. It is not too much to ask that this government should see that something is done along these lines.

Mr. T. J. Irwin (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, on the subject of breakwaters I should like to indicate my interest in what the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Hahn) has said. It is true my home is in White Rock but I represent Burnaby-Richmond, and in the Richmond section of my constituency, a breakwater was built some two or three years ago, at Steveston to form a fishing boat basin. When that was done it was said that this breakwater would be continued for at least another 200 feet to afford full protection to the basin. But that was never done, and the basin today is open to the full sea striking from the gulf of Georgia. This means that the boat basin at the present time is not giving the protection to fishing craft that it should, besides which the situation leads to a great deal of overcrowding of boats in that area. This makes it very difficult for the fishermen to move in and out at times. I would impress on the Minister for Public Works (Mr. Green) the necessity for finishing the job that was started some two or three years ago and giving the fishermen of that area a sufficient space in which to moor their boats for weekends and during the winter season.

This matter has now been outstanding for some time; a breakwater was not constructed until a long time after it was thought necessary, and now that it has been built it is essential that it be completed and that it should afford fishermen a reasonable chance to pursue their vocation and enjoy the protection they should have.

A great many fishermen there are not able to go to their homes at weekends and at various times merely because there is not sufficient space in the harbour and I therefore urge on the Minister of Public Works the importance of completing this work.

PENSIONS—REQUEST FOR STATUTORY VESTING
OF RIGHTS

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): Mr. Speaker, the other day the house kindly gave consent to have the resolution No. 8 in my name removed from the order paper. I said then that I wanted to bring up at an earlier date the subject of the vesting of pension rights, and if it was on the order paper I might not be able to do so at this time.

I had in mind that most employees do not, in most cases, receive any vesting in their pension rights until they have been in employment with one company for a certain fixed number of years. This generally comes