

Mr. FOSTER. The whole thing is as plain as daylight to me, although I do not know the locality. We are spending \$40,000 in addition to what we have already spent to make a system of drainage for the people of Lachine, who should be expected to do that work for themselves.

Mr. HAGGART. The reason the Government made the expenditure in the first place was that, on account of the building of the Lachine Canal, some of the water was backed up nearly to Lachine. We drained it into the River St. Pierre, which passes under the canal. The people of Lachine utilize that channel to drain their village. We have already done more than we were called upon to do, and there is now no interference with the flow of the river as it was in the state of nature. But the river does not afford a sufficient flow for the drainage of the whole of that country, and we are now called upon to build a system of drainage for the whole section by deepening the river from the canal to the St. Lawrence.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. It must be understood that it was the discharge from this ditch which causes the trouble. The water is no longer clean, and there is a larger quantity of it. The river has become a nuisance on account of the Government work, and it must be attended to. I knew nothing about this vote being put in the Estimates, but I know that complaint has repeatedly been laid before the city council of Montreal, and that the two boards of health have been asking that something be done in the matter.

Mr. CLANCY. Is it the board of health at Lachine that has complained?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. No, the complaint comes from the municipality of Cote St. Paul and St. Gabriel village which is now a ward of the city of Montreal. The people there hold the Government responsible.

Mr. FOSTER. Why is the water no longer clean?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Because the village of Lachine has drained into it.

Mr. FOSTER. Whose fault is that?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Why did you build a ditch for the Lachine people to drain into?

Mr. FOSTER. The difficulty arises from the fact that Lachine requires a system of drainage and it has built sewers and has emptied them into a certain channel. When the outflow of the water through the channel was impeded by the canal, there was some ground for grievance. But we remedied that at a cost of \$140,000, and provided a channel under the canal, to a point where the river remains as it was. But the dirty water comes from the sewers of La-

chine and not from the canal. Now, because their sewage system is not perfect they are asking \$40,000 to make it perfect.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. There is a misunderstanding as to the situation. It is not the people who are draining into this ditch who are complaining, but you have built a ditch for the people of Lachine, and you have allowed him to drain into it, and you have polluted all that part of the little river which runs through St. Gabriel Village, and you are imperilling the health of the citizens there. They would have no objection to have a stream of clear water running through the village, any more than to the canal itself. The village of St. Gabriel is under control of the city of Montreal, and there is no drainage from the city of Montreal running into that river. It is the sewage of the town of Lachine which has been allowed to run into that ditch by the Government, which is doing the mischief now; and the late Government is responsible for this \$40,000.

Mr. HAGGART. Forty thousand dollars will not begin to build and cover the ditch.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. It is only a short piece, not more than three or four acres.

Mr. SPROULE. The Government cannot be responsible for having built the ditch for the purposes for which it was required; but the village has afterwards made their sewer to that ditch and drained into it.

Mr. QUINN. It was my intention when this item came up to ask the Minister of Railways or the Minister of Public Works if they had heard anything from the Board of Health of the province of Quebec concerning this River St. Pierre. The portion of the River St. Pierre which was complained of as having been interfered with by the Lachine Canal, is seven miles at least away from the point where it crosses under the Lachine Canal. It was complained of by the citizens of Lachine that when the canal was widened there, the River St. Pierre was dammed up to a certain extent, and consequently the surplus water which ought to have been carried away from the neighbourhood of Lachine through this river under the old canal, was allowed to flow over the properties adjoining Lachine, that is some miles away from where it goes under the canal. Now, the Government, recognizing that there was something in the claim of the Lachine people, constructed a ditch for the purpose of carrying away the surplus water, and deepened the River St. Pierre at the point where it went under the canal in such a way as to allow it to perform its natural functions, that is, to carry the surplus water away from the surrounding country under the canal and into the River St. Lawrence. That was all very well in its way, but some people, probably Lachine people, turned their own private