

Mr. LENNOX. Yes. This difficulty arises, not only once or twice during the session, but often. Does not the minister think he could effect an improvement?

Mr. PUGSLEY. My hon. friend (Mr. Lennox) will see that until the wharf is transferred and until some experience has been had of the business, it would be impossible for an official to estimate the revenue with any degree of accuracy. In fact I would not ask him to make an estimate in advance.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not agree with that, I suppose that, when the proposal is made to build a wharf, one department or the other would consider whether the revenue would be likely to pay for the maintenance at least. I should hardly suppose that the Department of Public Works would undertake the building of a wharf quite without regard for that consideration. I do not say that there might not be cases where you would go on with the work even if you knew that the revenue would not maintain it. But I should think that the inquiry must be made.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is to serve as a breakwater as well as a wharf. This point is an important fishing centre.

Mr. LEMIEUX. That would be incidental to the wharf. That is, if you had not a wharf you would not need a breakwater.

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, this is a place to which fishermen resort for safety. And it might be that the primary object was to give a harbour of refuge.

Mr. LENNOX. Is that true in this case?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes. We had a memorial presented to us stating that the fishing industry at this point was an important one, and that every year the fishermen have to provide themselves with new boats to replace those broken on the rocks, and a place of resort in stormy weather is very much needed. The department decided—before I became minister—that it would be well to give the breakwater and create the harbour of refuge. They have decided also that it was advisable to make the breakwater available for a wharf.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Is it customary for the minister not to make inquiry as to the probable revenue.

Mr. PUGSLEY. So far as I am concerned as minister, the object has been rather to look at the accommodation given to the people, and not so much at the revenue to be derived. In the case of these wharfs, you cannot expect to derive much revenue. Wherever we can feel that a wharf will operate as a breakwater

and at the same time create a harbour of refuge, I am always more impressed with that consideration rather than the few dollars that may be derived as a revenue from the construction of the wharf. I do not know what were the arguments used in this case, because, as I have said, petitions were presented and the work undertaken before I became minister. But I found there were many petitions in favour of it dating as far back as January, 1903.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What will be the total cost?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The total cost, when completed, will be a little over \$30,000.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Are we to understand that the minister is to spend \$30,000, and cannot give us even a reasonable idea of whether there will be any revenue?

Mr. PUGSLEY. There will be no revenue unless we transfer it to the Marine Department.

Mr. SPROULE. Surely the government ought to know whether their policy is that this will be transferred to the Marine Department. If the principle is good in one locality, it ought to be equally good in all.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What was the nature of the wharf accommodation before?

Mr. PUGSLEY. There was none before, no breakwater, no protection to fishing.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What is the population?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The population in 1901 was 557.

Mr. SPROULE. Is it the intention of the government to have these wharfs transferred to the Marine Department?

Mr. PUGSLEY. When we take up that question, we will have to consider whether the primary object of this work is a breakwater and harbour of refuge; if it is, I would not think that would be a case where it should be transferred to the Marine Department, and where these people would be obliged to pay tolls. But that is a matter I have not yet considered. I am waiting for the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to determine upon his policy under the statute passed last session. I shall be guided greatly by the suggestion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, because the legislation was promoted by him.

Mr. SPROULE. The minister is putting us off. When we ask what will be the income from this, he says he does not know until it is transferred to the Marine Department, thereby implying that it is going to be transferred. I do not wish to be understood as saying that they ought to be transferred, but I do mean to imply that the government ought to have some settled