

Supply—Public Works

The file which I gave him shows that the contractor was notified that the work was not up to specification, and it also contains a copy of a letter—I can show him the original—in which the contractor agrees to make good the walks which have proved deficient.

Mr. GARDINER: The minister must remember that the contract called for an inch and a half finish, and if that was carried out the sidewalks would not scale as they have done during this last spring. What are your inspectors doing to allow work like that to be passed? No doubt you had inspectors on the job, and if that is the class of inspector you have it is time you got others.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I will frankly say to my hon. friend that I do not think that job is a very great tribute to the inspector who was in charge of it. However, I am told that the requisite thickness was put into the work, but apparently the frost has affected it. The contractor has agreed to make it good; that is all I can say.

Mr. GARDINER: We will see what happens to it.

Item agreed to.

Harbours and rivers—Ontario, \$716,989.12.

Mr. KAISER: I should like to ask the Minister of Public Works why the harbour at Oshawa has been overlooked. The government built half the harbour and then stopped work immediately after the last election, and nothing has been done since. Does the government propose to do anything to this harbour, or is its intention to let it go to waste? Many thousands of dollars of the public money are being wasted due to the fact that the work is not proceeded with. I would ask the Minister of Public Works if it is the intention of the government to do anything more with it.

Mr. ELLIOTT: My hon. friend is under a misapprehension if he thinks it is the purpose of the government to abandon work which has already been done. This matter has been given some consideration and it has been decided that nothing further would be done this year.

Mr. GARDINER: I should like to ask the minister why it is that such large amounts appear in the supplementary estimates. Was it not possible to get these items in the main estimates?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Perhaps the best answer I can give is to refer my hon. friend to the remarks of the hon. gentleman who has just [Mr. Elliott.]

spoken. He says there is not enough, and the same claim comes from all over the country. These items do not contain nearly all the requests made or nearly all that were perhaps necessary, but they are all we are able to provide.

Item agreed to.

Harbours and rivers—Saskatchewan and Alberta, \$10,600.

Mr. KENNEDY: Has the minister been able to decide whether a telegraph line will be constructed from the Peace river to Fort Vermilion? It is very badly needed.

Mr. ELLIOTT: We will not be able to do it this year, in view of the fact that we have not been able to secure an appropriation.

Item agreed to.

Harbours and rivers—British Columbia, \$241,100.

Mr. DICKIE: It is painful for me to halt this mad rush, but a number of items were recommended by your engineer in British Columbia and I notice that you have overlooked about nine different suggestions that he has made for money to be expended in the various islands in my constituency. I do not expect everything, but I hoped that when the main estimates did not provide for some of them I would find them in the supplementaries. However, my hope has been dispelled, and if the minister will just promise that anything that is really necessary for these island wharves will be looked after by the general vote, I will withdraw any opposition.

Mr. ELLIOTT: If the engineer to whom my hon. friend has referred had only nine of his recommendations turned down, he is more fortunate than most of the other engineers who have been making recommendations, because there is a much greater number made by most of them that we do not seem to be able to get funds for at the present time. But I will assure my hon. friend that, as far as it is humanly possible out of the general vote to meet the most urgent cases, that will be done.

Item agreed to.

Public Works—chargeable to income—Quebec—Ellis bay harbour improvements, \$300,000.

Mr. ADSHEAD: There is an amendment of mine to this item.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Item No. 137 in regard to Quebec has been carried with the exception of the Ellis bay item, and in view of the discussion that took place and the views that were