

kept out of his seat or out of the honour of a seat in this House for very many months. If, however, he is to remain out until a vacancy occurs through death or any other cause, he may possibly be kept out for a number of years, and every one will regret that very much under the circumstances, after he has sacrificed so much. If the hon. gentleman would give us that information, I have no doubt that others beside Mr. Sloan would be highly gratified.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—With respect to my hon. friend's last question, I think he might afford to wait for two or three weeks, and then I will be in a better position to reply to him.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.—What is the date of the by-election?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—This is a question which will engage the serious consideration of the government. With respect to the other very important matter which has been brought up, I do not think it is possible, in view of the lateness of our assembly, to deal with a question of that importance during this session. Later on we shall consider the subject.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—The question was raised by the hon. gentleman from Hastings as to the amount of money saved to the country by the deepening of the channel and the greater facilities given to navigation on the St. Lawrence. I have not the figures before me, but, as far as I can remember, they will be found in the evidence taken before Mr. Justice Cassels. I think my memory serves me well when I state that figures were given by some gentleman qualified to speak as to the reduction of rates of insurance on the St. Lawrence, making a sum total which struck me as very large. The statement which the hon. gentleman read was made, as far as I could understand him, at a board of trade meeting in Montreal on Monday last. He simply mentioned one point touching the question of insurance. I see that Mr. Drummond, who is not a party man, the retiring president, spoke of harbour improvements and the channel improvements which perhaps it would be well to quote

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since the question has been raised. He stated that:

The past season has seen the completion of the fourteen double-deck freight sheds, the system of grain carriers and the readjustment of railway tracks on the wharfs. The work is being carried forward in a systematic and businesslike manner that reflects credit on the harbour board, its engineers and officers, and on the minister under whose jurisdiction the board is working. It is indeed now a pleasure to offer our thanks and appreciation to those who are so efficiently carrying out the good work.

In order to show that improvements are in demand throughout the country and no further away from the capital than Montreal, the next paragraph concerns a demand for a dry dock, and reads as follows:

With our shipping trade increasing, and the knowledge that it will continue to increase with the growth of our country and improved harbour facilities, the necessity for a dry-dock grows greater and greater day by day and we hope the government will provide for this during the present season.

The work of deepening and improving the St. Lawrence channel has been vigorously carried on during the past season, a gratifying feature being the commencement of the thirty-five foot channel.

Then there is reference to the work of the Transcontinental Railway and the Quebec bridge. All this goes to show that the business men of the country appreciate the work that has been done on the channel of the St. Lawrence.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Where does the insurance come in?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—It has been reduced in ratio to the money spent in improving the St. Lawrence.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—I hope my hon. friend did not understand me to complain of the improvements to the St. Lawrence? I made no reference to that at all. All I referred to in that respect was that the right hon. gentleman made the statement that owing to the improvements that had taken place, the insurance rates were reduced. That is all.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—I will get the facts for my hon. friend.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—On the contrary, I have always advocated the mak-