

Mr. TAYLOR. Why do the government not purchase wharfs at Prescott, Brockville, Gananoque, Kingston and other places where the Richelieu boats call? Farmers ship large quantities of hay and other produce at these wharfs, and have to pay toll on them.

Mr. LEIGHTON McCARTHY. Are they not public docks?

Mr. TAYLOR. No, private docks, every one of them.

Mr. LEIGHTON McCARTHY. Whom do they belong to?

Mr. TAYLOR. The one at Gananoque belongs to the Rathbun Company. Why do the government furnish free docks in one part of the country and not in another? From Montreal to Toronto there is not a government owned dock. Private enterprise has built them all.

Mr. FISHER. If there were a hardship, the people would present the case to the government.

Mr. J. D. REID. I may say that at Prescott the dock at which the boats call and from which the farmers ship their produce is a private dock on which there is a wharfage charge. If you are giving the public a dock in this locality, why not give us one at Prescott?

Mr. FISHER. If you make out a case.

Mr. J. D. REID. I make out a case now. There are four or five docks at Prescott, and a boat cannot be landed at any one of them without paying wharfage. Even the ferry dock is a private dock. We have just as much right to a public dock there as this locality, and if it is only necessary to make the application I shall be very glad to see that it is done promptly by the mayor and council of Prescott.

Mr. FISHER. I did not say that it was only necessary to make an application.

Mr. J. D. REID. If the minister is going to adopt that policy, which has been done since he assumed the position of acting minister—

Mr. FISHER. This was done last year.

Mr. J. D. REID. The hon. gentleman is following it up. At all events, I will see that application is made, and I hope the minister will give it the same consideration that he has given to these other places.

Mr. FISHER. I will consider it.

L'Isle d'Alma—removal of rocks, \$1,000.

Mr. BLAIN. Will this complete the work?

Mr. FISHER. This is a kind of work that is done from time to time to improve the navigation. The ice frequently brings the rocks back into the channel.

Mr. MONK. I do not see anything in these estimates for removing the rocks in the St. Lawrence channel at Cap St. Charles in compliance with the recommendation of the commission.

Mr. FISHER. That is in the estimates of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. There is not an item for that particular thing, but it is done out of the ship channel vote.

Mr. MONK. I am glad to hear it, because I put a question to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries about the removal of those rocks, and his answer was that there were no rocks there at all, although last year the Bavarian had her bottom stove in by a rock in that channel.

Lotbinière and Portneuf counties government wharfs—improvement of approaches, \$1,200.

Mr. MONK. What are these approaches, and how was the amount voted last year expended?

Mr. FISHER. There are a lot of boulders in the bed of the St. Lawrence, on each side of the ship channel, and we have sometimes to remove them.

Mr. MONK. Then I understand that this money is not for approaches to the wharfs from the land?

Mr. FISHER. No, for clearing out the channel.

Magdalen Islands—breakwaters and piers, \$1,600.

Mr. J. D. REID. This is in Gaspé?

Mr. LEMIEUX. It is, and there is a very thrifty population of 6,000, composed of fishermen. Five wharfs have been built there and they give great satisfaction. The steamer running between Pictou, N.S., and the Magdalen Islands twice a week, calls at every one of these wharfs. The expenditure has been a wise expenditure from all points of view.

Mr. FISHER. This amount ought to be \$16,000, instead of \$1,600 and I shall have to bring an item in the supplementary estimates to bring it up to that amount. This is for the completion of piers already begun.

Mr. J. D. REID. Last year there was \$20,000 in the estimates for 1905, and the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) said:

You spent \$20,000 last year, and \$20,000 is asked for this year. Does that cover all the work to be done?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes.

He stated that was all that was to be done. Now you are asking for \$16,000 more.

Mr. FISHER. And I do not think this will finish it. It will take another year