

dock. Three parties were interested in the work—the Government, which was bound by its position and law to see that things are well done; the Harbour Commission, and the Corporation of Quebec. Preliminary borings were going on, and every effort was being made to have the survey as complete as possible. That was the true position of affairs, and nobody could complain of being ill-treated. With regard to the attempts made to turn the electors against him, he would say that here and out of the Government he would do nothing which could be construed as an injustice towards any constituency. The statement that this question had to do with his election was incorrect. He had always occupied the same position with regard to it. He was returned unanimously at the last election, and he could promise them that he would be unanimously returned at any future election. A man who had been in Parliament thirty-two years, who had been opposed by the strongest men who could be brought out against him, who had been betrayed by his own friends, and still was successful, could accomplish a great deal.

Mr. CARON said although he did not agree with all that had fallen from the hon. member of Bellechasse and others, he fully concurred with them in the opinion that this question ought to be settled. In 1873 power was given to the Harbour Commissioners of Quebec to borrow money for the purpose of creating a fund which, with the money to be voted by the Parliament of Canada and the Imperial Government, would be used to defray the cost of this graving dock. In 1875 the legislation was altered so that the power to borrow money was transferred from the Commissioners to the Governor in Council and the money was not to be paid into the hands of the Commissioners until the plans had been approved by the Governor in Council, and the site had been selected. Ever since the question had been before the public it had been largely discussed; expensive explorations had been conducted by the most eminent engineers of England, and local gentleman had also been employed to decide this question of the site.

Hon. Mr. CAUCHON.

Public opinion was divided as to where the dock should be placed. One party was in favour of Lévis, and there was a great deal to be said favourable to the site recommended by Messrs. Kinnipple & Morris. But from the nature of improvements going on and contemplated at River St. Charles, he thought that perhaps there was no room for the graving dock. Moreover, difficulties from an engineering standpoint were in the way of this site; it was stated it would cost more to construct the dock there than at other localities mentioned. After carefully reading the reports which had been made, he had come to the conclusion that Wolf's Cove was a most desirable location.

In the course of this debate, his hon. friend the member for Lévis seemed to discuss matters foreign to the question. That gentleman spoke of attacks on the Government and the benefits which the Conservative party had derived from this graving dock agitation. When his hon. friends were busy at the local elections, he had also to take his share of this, and he remembered that one political party made use of this question, which should be considered from a purely national standpoint, to serve their own purposes.

He remembered distinctly that the President of the Council took a very active part in connection with the election of Mr. Shehyn; and at one of the meetings it was stated in the presence of the President of the Council to the electors of St. Rochs, that if they would return Mr. Shehyn, a good Liberal who would be true to their interests, they might rest perfectly certain that the graving dock would be located in the River St. Charles. On the same day, and perhaps at the very same time his hon. friend from Lévis, while supporting the candidature of his friend in the county for the Local House, Mr. Paquette, told the electors that if they desired to have the dock on their side of the river they must elect this gentleman. He was rather surprised to hear the President of the Council speak of his great successes in his political contests during the past twenty-five years. The hon gentleman might surely have avoided mention of his last two elections, for in 1872 he came out as a Conservative; and his hon. friend