

SUPPLY—PUBLIC WORKS—*Con.*

Préfontaine, Hon. E. (Minister of Marine and Fisheries)—*Con.*

administration. How should I be held responsible?—2468. I have not offered any excuse. I said the matter was in the hands of the Department of Public Works—2469. She did not give satisfaction; she did enormous work when she was in operation, but was often stopped—2470. I also desire to put myself on record as stating here that I was not in possession of that information—2471. I will undertake to procure any information that exists. I cannot do more—2472. I have whatever reports the Department of Justice may furnish without prejudice to the Crown—2473. You know more about it than I do—2474. They were only used two years, and the ordinary life of a boiler should be about twenty-five years—2475. All this was done through public tenders, and these tenders were advertised in the papers—2476. The fiscal year lasts from the 1st of July, 1905, to the 1st of July, 1906. It will be before the 1st of July, 1906. Ames must remember that there are three months yet of the fiscal year ending July, 1905—2483. Now, we can ascertain every week what there is in stock, which we could not do under the other system—2484. Yes, and his instructions are to charge against every steamer what is expended on it—2485. They are generally opened by the deputy minister, or by the engineer, or by Mr. Desbarats—2486. That is why I made inquiries of the managers of large concerns as to their systems—2487. There will be in the books of the department at Sorel entries made to justify the expenditure on every dredge—2488. You will be able to get it by asking for it. But I would not undertake to publish it—2489.

Reid, J. D. (Grenville)—2476.

Is the wrecking plant at Quebec under the Department of Marine and Fisheries?—2476. They assisted at many wrecks—2478. Fitzpatrick has been most unfair to the Leslie Wrecking Company—2479. In view of the small amount that would be given to this company, it would repay the government twice over—2480. That is about the time that the bonus was given to the Davie Company—2482.

Taylor, George (Leeds)—2455.

I find in the Auditor General's Report that all sorts of expenses are charged against this work—2455. Préfontaine did not explain the expenditure of \$153.92 for the typewriter in preparing 65,500 words—2456.

St. Louis rivière—feeders, opening waterways between St. Anicet and Ste. Barbe, \$10,000—7380.

Barker, Sam. (Hamilton, East)—7385.

I have protested time and again against taking these small votes year after year—7385. Brodeur said that \$300 or \$400 had been spent, and that the balance of the

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\$5,000 would be expended up to the 30th of June—7386.

Bergeron, J. G. H. (Beauharnois)—7381.

This amount for improvements at St. Louis for which \$15,000 was voted last year—7381. My own impression is that it might be done better in another way—7382. I call upon Brodeur to see that the money which is voted is spent in prosecuting this work—7383. I take it as an indication that they intend to have the work done, although they do it very late—7384. Was there not a report made by Mr. Parent some years ago, an entirely different report?—7386. The object of the vote is to prevent the waters of Lake St. Francis from flooding the farms of St. Anicet and Ste. Barbe—7387. All I ask Brodeur is to carry out the work for which the money was voted last year—7388. I would not say that Mr. Parent's report is the better one of the two—7389.

Brodeur, Hon. L. P. (For Minister of Public Works)—7380.

This vote is asked to carry on projected improvements at the head of Rivière St. Louis—7380. As I have explained, the government intend to secure an outlet for the water which comes from the St. Lawrence—7381. Was there not some work done in the old days?—7382. Bergeron suggests another way of doing the work. I would like to know what other way—by pick and shovel?—7383. We had \$15,000 voted last year, and more than eight thousand has been already spent—7384. I said the estimate was \$96,000, but I did not say it was exaggerated—7385. Mr. Michaud, the engineer of the district—7386. Bergeron thinks it would be better to extend the dyke which was commenced some years ago—7387. Bergeron says that the plan we are proposing is much more expensive than that recommended in the report of Mr. Parent—7388. No money has yet been spent; why then should the government go on without looking up this other report?—7389.

Henderson, David (Halton)—7384.

There is no use of getting mad, because we choose to criticise an item. I think Brodeur had better keep his temper—7384. Brodeur is not doing justice to his usual reputation in this House by standing up and threatening to drop the item—7385.

Taylor, George (Leeds)—7386.

Why does not Brodeur ask for a revote of the balance of the \$15,000?—7386. That will not prevent Brodeur allowing the item to pass—7389.

Walsh, R. N. (Huntingdon)—7380.

Was work done there in the fall of 1904—7380. I do not object to the vote but I would like to know whether the work is actually to be proceeded with?—7381. The only work which has been done there was done by this pick and shovel brigade