

Supply—Harbours and Rivers

Mr. STEWART: In this item there is a revote of \$75,000 for breakwater repairs and improvements at Brooklyn, the total estimated cost being \$165,000. What is the explanation of this item?

Mr. CARDIN: The contract for the work has been awarded, but I understand that this year it is not expected that we can spend more than \$75,000.

Mr. BENNETT: Do these items cover the entire estimated expenditure or only that part of the contemplated expenditure which may be made in this fiscal year?

Mr. CARDIN: In many instances they cover the whole expenditure, but in others they cover only that amount which we reasonably expect to spend during the year. Generally speaking, we do not award a contract without having a substantial amount in the estimates, generally about half.

Mr. BENNETT: Whatever is contemplated to be expended in the fiscal year. What does this item really contemplate in the way of public expenditure? What will be the total expenditure by the taxpayers of Canada under this item?

Mr. CARDIN: That would be hard to give. In connection with many items, particularly the small ones, we shall be spending the whole amount.

Mr. BENNETT: What will it cost to complete the program outlined in this item?

Mr. CARDIN: I am sorry I cannot give that information, because we have not added up the different items where only a portion of the total amount is indicated. For example, in connection with the Brooklyn breakwater, the amount asked for is \$75,000, but we indicate that the total cost of the work will be \$165,000. The same thing would apply to other items.

Mr. BENNETT: The total of this item is \$1,051,055, and I should like to know what is contemplated must be spent to complete the program.

Mr. CARDIN: The commitments covered by this item will probably run to \$1,500,000.

Mr. BENNETT: I am afraid the total will be more than that.

Mr. CARDIN: I do not think so.

Mr. STEWART: Another item about which I should like some information is the harbour improvements at Dingwall. In this case the estimated expenditure is \$350,000 and \$90,000 is being asked for this year. What is the nature of the work to be carried on here?

[Mr. Cardin.]

Mr. CARDIN: A gypsum deposit was discovered at this point, and a considerable business has been developed. A few years ago the government undertook to deepen the channel in the harbour, provided the company operating there would agree to build up a traffic of 120,000 tons. The company has carried out that undertaking which goes back as far as 1933, and it is now asking that the harbour be deepened still further in order to permit the entry of vessels with a deeper draft, that is, vessels of eight or nine thousand tons. Instead of providing a traffic of 120,000 tons in eight years, the company has increased the annual capacity of the plant to 120,000 tons. In order to help it to develop this business, which is quite important to that section of Nova Scotia, the government has agreed to deepen the harbour.

Mr. STEWART: I recall quite well the facts in connection with the start and development of that industry. What the minister has said now recalls to me the terms of the agreement. How much has been spent altogether on that harbour since 1933?

Mr. CARDIN: In 1933, \$43,000 was expended; in 1934, \$40,000; in 1935, \$28,000; in 1936, \$48,000; in 1937, \$113,000. The total that has been spent there is \$274,000.

Mr. STEWART: Port Hood—closing northern entrance, \$48,200. What is the reason for undertaking this work? It is one that has been under consideration, I know, for a number of years, and there seem to be reasons why it should not be done.

Mr. CARDIN: This amount of \$48,000 includes a revote of \$6,500, and is required for the completion of the work under contract with Mr. Condon, consisting of placing fascine mattresses across the northern entrance to the harbour of a length of 2,645 feet. The amount of the contract is \$51,520. The ultimate object of the work is to close the northern entrance, which is exposed to northerly seas to such an extent that shipping cannot anchor safely during a northerly storm. I am informed that this is to complete the work.

Item agreed to.

Prince Edward Island—

- Basin head—boat harbour, \$12,500.
- Belfast—wharf repairs, \$6,000.
- Belle river harbour—breakwater extension, \$5,500.
- Boughton island—wharf, \$6,300.
- Canoe cove—breakwater, \$14,800.
- Malpeque (Kier's shore)—wharf repairs, \$6,000.
- Mont Carmel—breakwater extension, \$3,600.
- Summerside—to take over and reconstruct Queen's wharf, \$16,500.
- Wood islands—harbour, \$150,000.