

Mr. WILSON. Is it expected that the work will be finished during the fiscal year?

Mr. EMMERSON. It may not be found necessary to finish the crib-work wharf.

Mr. MONK. Will this complete the work?

Mr. EMMERSON. No. \$722,587.70 would complete it if we put in that crib-work wharf. We are only asking \$650,000 in this main estimate.

Mr. MONK. What is the total amount of the contract?

Mr. EMMERSON. The estimated total amount of the contract including the wharf is \$2,795,113.17. There has been expended and paid for up to date including the estimated payments for the year ending 30th of June last, \$2,072,525.47. That will leave a balance of \$722,587.70, and in the main estimates we ask for \$650,000. The wharf is a matter which is to be determined. The contract is such that we need not build it unless we deem it necessary.

Mr. MONK. Am I to understand that on the highway portion of the bridge no tolls will be paid.

Mr. EMMERSON. The provincial government is contributing the interest on the cost of that part of that bridge which is used as a highway, and I understand that they have a statute under which they can collect tolls.

Mr. MONK. What is the arrangement between the local government and the federal government as regards that; it ought to be a free bridge if possible. It seems strange that the local government should be able to collect tolls on a bridge which we are building. I have strong objection to tolls, because we suffer a great deal from that antiquated system in the city of Montreal. How does it come, that the local government by virtue of a local statute can collect tolls on a bridge which we are constructing.

Mr. WILSON. I would impress upon the minister the importance of having a free bridge. In these modern days there should be no tolls on any highway in Canada. Years ago we abolished them on the highways of the riding which I have the honour to represent.

Mr. HACKETT. We are retrograding when we ask the people of Prince Edward Island to pay tolls when crossing over this bridge. I agree with my hon. friends from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) and from Lennox (Mr. Wilson) in their condemnation of tolls. Is the work on that bridge going on at the present time?

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. I do not think that hon. gentlemen opposite are justified in assuming that the local government will charge tolls on this bridge. I would point out to my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) that the federal government is not bearing the whole cost of this bridge; the local government

is contributing the interest on the cost of that portion of it which will be used as a highway.

Mr. MONK. To whom is the interest being paid by the local government?

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. To the federal government when the bridge will be in operation. I presume it may be deducted from the provincial subsidies.

Mr. MONK. My hon. friend does not know exactly what the terms of the arrangement are.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. I know in a general way.

Mr. MONK. I understood the minister to say that the provincial government was entitled to collect tolls, that does not coincide with the statement of my hon. friend.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) said that the federal government was providing the whole cost of that bridge.

Mr. MONK. There is no doubt of that; my hon. friend (Mr. J. J. Hughes) admits it.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. In one sense that would be right, but if the local government are paying the interest on a portion of the cost of the bridge, that portion would belong to them.

Mr. MONK. My hon. friend assumes that because the local government are going to pay interest on the highway portion of the bridge, they will own that portion. I do not understand why they should. On the contrary, I think we shall own it ourselves.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). I think to collect tolls in this age is something wrong. It belongs to the dark ages, and should be abolished. I agree that it is a step in the wrong direction to collect tolls on any bridge in Prince Edward Island. We have no such savage remnant of the past in the whole province of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. MONK. I am very glad my hon. friend has come to my assistance. We have suffered a great deal from bridge tolls in the vicinity of Montreal, and we look upon them as an outrageous abuse—as a survival of the dark ages. We would like to abolish them, but my hon. friend the Minister of Finance has hitherto been an obstacle in the way. Willingly or unwillingly, he has not helped us as we expected he would to abolish these tolls. But I think we are entitled, before passing this item, to know what the arrangements are.

Mr. EMMERSON. The arrangements are embodied in chapter 7 of 63-64 Victoria of the Statutes of Canada, confirming an agreement made between the Minister of Railways of Canada and the Commissioner of Public Works of the province of Prince Edward Island. Under that agreement the provincial government is to pay so much money yearly to the Dominion government, and is to have control of and keep in repair