

the construction of a bridge across the Batiscan river on the highway between Montreal and Quebec. My information is that the Federal Government offer to pay a certain proportion of the cost on condition that the bridge be built about a quarter of a mile above the road, while the provincial authorities want to build it directly in line with the road. In the press of yesterday it is stated that the provincial authorities and the people of Quebec are offered help by the Federal Government in this matter, and I should like to know what information the minister can give me with regard to it.

Mr. CARVELL: I have no knowledge that the Federal Government ever made an offer of that kind to the provincial government. They may have done so before I assumed office.

Mr. BUREAU: Approaches have been built there by the Federal Government.

Mr. CARVELL: They are possibly for ice protection. I never could understand why the Federal Government should build bridges across rivers within provinces. The Federal Government has assisted in building interprovincial bridges, but it would be opening a very wide door to start building bridges across ordinary rivers within provinces.

Mr. JACOBS: You built the Quebec bridge.

Mr. CARVELL: That is a different matter. We built a bridge across the Ottawa river many years ago, and now we are paying the penalty because we are being asked to assist in rebuilding it. If we violate this fundamental law, we will have to pay the price. I was approached by a high official of the Quebec Government about this matter some time ago, and as he was a good lawyer, I mentioned some of the difficulties that appeared to me to be in the way. If any promise was made by the Federal Government, it is unknown to me.

Ontario—French River—In full and final settlement of all claims of Jennings and Ross in connection with their contract for the construction of the substructure of the Big Chaudière Dam, including interest thereon at 5 per cent., \$5,800.

Mr. CANNON: What claim did these contractors make?

Mr. CARVELL: They made a claim of \$16,000. It was thought that if they were entitled to receive \$5,115.97 three years ago, they are entitled to interest on it. I under-

[Mr. DuTremblay.]

stand that an Order in Council was passed authorizing the payment of the money, and we are now asking that the necessary amount be voted to carry that arrangement out.

Sheguindah—Repairs to wharf, \$1,000.

Mr. G. B. NICHOLSON: Has the department in contemplation any investigation of the conditions surrounding the wharves on the waters of Manitoulin Island and in the north channel adjacent to Manitoulin island having regard to the Government taking over what are now privately owned docks? My information is that many of these harbours have, within recent years, become important from the fact that the country has rapidly developed and is now very largely agricultural where it was formerly simply lumbering. The docks were purely private and many of them are still privately owned. This works a very considerable hardship owing to the fact that the man who owns the dock naturally controls the shipping. Has the department had that matter under consideration and, if not, will the minister undertake to have the engineers of the Public Works Department make an investigation and report on the advisability of the Government taking over the docks where the traffic that formerly was private has become public?

Mr. CARVELL: I have not heard of it before, although it may have been brought to the attention of my predecessors in the department. I could not promise my hon. friend (Mr. Nicholson) that I would ask the engineers to make a report or that I would act upon it, because that would be a question of policy for the Government to decide. However, I will go into the matter and give it the best consideration I can. It seems to me that there is a great deal in what the hon. gentleman says but, knowing so little about it, I really could not express an opinion.

Wendover—Repairs to wharf, \$1,000.

Mr. EULER: Before we leave harbours and rivers in Ontario, I note that there is no appropriation included here for repairs to the wharf, or dredging in the harbour at Port Dover, or what should be the harbour of Port Dover. Port Dover is not in my constituency, but the improvement of that harbour will affect very materially the cities and towns north of that point right up into Waterloo county, including Brantford, Galt, Kitchener, Waterloo, Elmira, and various others. The minister will recollect that two or three weeks ago