

they had not dredges sufficient to do the work necessary. What are your plans for the coming season in those waters?

Mr. FISHER. We have hardly been able yet to lay out a programme and would not undertake to say what can be done until authorized by parliament. As soon as the votes are passed, we will proceed to let out the work. It is quite true that in the maritime provinces our plant is hardly equal to the demand, and I feel disposed to ask money for the purpose of adding to it this year.

Mr. J. D. REID. Surely some plan must have been laid out before preparing these estimates?

Mr. FISHER. There is a large vote for dredging in the maritime provinces, but not for contract dredging. When these items pass the House I shall endeavour to try and get some of the work done by contract in addition to what our own dredges can do.

St. John harbour—improvements, repairs and dredging, \$200,000.

Mr. DANIEL. Will the hon. minister explain how much of the work at present in hand this \$200,000 will accomplish and to what extent the government intend proceeding with the works there? Do they intend to carry out the dredging in the harbour and permit the full length of the thousand feet of wharf to be built, and do the government intend sending a dredge of their own there or to do the work by contract with private persons? I understand from the press that it did not take the right hon. the First Minister very long to see the urgent necessity of the work at St. John being rushed with the utmost speed, and I presume the report is correct that the acting minister received a telegram from him urging him to expedite this work as fast as possible. I would like to hear the First Minister say how he proposes to do this work and whether he intends to improve the channel in the harbour of St. John as well as do the necessary dredging for the wharf?

Mr. FISHER. This vote is for the purpose of completing what is known as the Maze contract for dredging near Sand Point wharf. The St. John city delegation which came to see the government a little while ago asked for very considerable more dredging there on the understanding that the government was to prepare a bed for the building of the wharf by the city of St. John.

Mr. DANIEL. To prepare what bed?

Mr. FISHER. In the harbour of St. John the city is prepared to build some wharfs, but in consequence of the nature of the bottom it is impossible to build until a

large amount of dredging is taken out so as to bring the space down to hard pan on which the wharfs can safely lie. It will be necessary to dredge to a depth of about thirty feet below the lowest water. Mr. Hyman seems to have undertaken with the city of St. John to do that, and last year a certain portion was done and a certain part of the wharf was built by the city of St. John, but not quite completed. The city wish that wharf to be extended and are asking the government to dredge out a space on which it may lie.

Mr. DANIEL. That is the addition to the first wharf?

Mr. FISHER. Yes. They have asked that a thousand feet should eventually be dredged out for a thousand feet extension, but they only ask that six hundred feet should be done this year. I hope to do it. This vote is not for that purpose. It will depend on what the House decides later on in the session.

Mr. DANIEL. This vote does not include the addition to the original wharf?

Mr. FISHER. No, it is for the purpose of finishing the Maze contract which does not include that dredging.

Mr. DANIEL. Does the minister intend bringing in supplementary estimates in order to do this?

Mr. FISHER. I hope in a day or two to lay the estimates on the table.

Mr. DANIEL. He does not feel like stating that now?

Mr. FISHER. No, I am not in a position just yet.

Mr. DANIEL. With regard to the channel in the harbour of St. John, has the department come to the conclusion to do anything this season?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, I hope to have the 'fielding' there before the end of the year at work.

Shippegan harbour—improvements at Shippegan gully, \$6,000.

Mr. GANONG. What is the total cost?

Mr. FISHER. This is to complete. The total cost will be \$15,940.

Mr. GANONG. Is this to be the port of call between London and Yokohama? Perhaps the hon member for Gloucester (Mr. O. Turgeon) will tell us.

Mr. FISHER. There is a large choice of ports down there.

Mr. GANONG. We would like to hear from the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Turgeon).

Mr. FISHER. You must not be too curious.