

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** Perhaps some petition was sent to the Railway Department, but it has not come to my attention.

Mr. KAULBACH. I hope the hon. Minister of Public Works will not be unmindful of Lunenburg, but will see that the dredging which is absolutely required is done there. It is the most important of the dredging required in Nova Scotia, and judging by the smile on the hon. gentleman's face I should say he contemplates sending a dredge there early in the season. I might mention another work in my county, which is also important, and that is the crooked channel, at the La Have Islands at the mouth of La Have River. It is a channel which is much needing dredging, for at every low tide boats are compelled to go out into rough water at great risk to the occupants. It is a work that should have been attended to some time ago. I give the hon. Minister an invitation to the county of Lunenburg. If he comes there we will treat him well and endeavour to show him how very important is the work I am speaking of, and how necessary it is that it should be attended to as the first after Lunenburg and Mahone Bay are cared for.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** As a matter of fact, I intend making a tour of the maritime provinces and gladly accept the kind invitation of my hon. friend.

Mr. SPROULE. Will it be convenient for the hon. gentleman to have some dredging done at Thornbury and Meaford? There was some dredging done at Meaford, year after year, but the work is not yet finished, and a dredge would be only required there a week or two to finish the work which is very much needed.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** I shall do so.

Mr. SPROULE. I would suggest that it be sent not too late in the season, because in the fall it is not so handy for a dredge to do the work as in the summer.

Mr. MARTIN. On the south side of Prince Edward Island, the harbours of Murray River, Wood Islands and Vernon River Bridge require dredging. Those harbours were to have been attended to some years ago. Last year the intention was to attend to this work, but the dredge went to Charlottetown and Crapaud instead. I hope that when the hon. Minister is making his tour of the maritime provinces, he will visit Prince Edward Island, and I tender to him, on behalf of the people, a very hearty welcome. When he visits that province, I think he will be disposed to be a little more generous, especially with regard to those works to which I call his attention.

Mr. GILLIES. I would draw the hon. Minister's attention to a work much

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

required in my county at Fourchu Harbour, a place on the confines of the two counties of Cape Breton and Richmond. The hon. Minister is aware, from the information furnished him by myself and by the officers of his department, of the great importance and necessity of having that work done. It is a point, as the hon. Minister knows, of very great consequence to the people in that part of the country. It is a work which, when once completed, will be of a permanent character. There is no danger of it filling up, because the mud there is of such a character that when once the channel is made, it will be kept open by the running stream between the ocean and the harbour. If the hon. Minister will consult his officers, and particularly his chief engineer, he will bear out what I have said and will, to a word, corroborate my statement in this regard. A dredge was sent there the year before last, and did some excellent work. Last year the dredge was sent there and did further work, but was sent out post-haste to another county at a very important stage of the work. But when I represented the matter to the Minister of Public Works, he was good enough to have the dredge sent back, but she was again taken away before the work was completed. There are full plans of the work in the hon. gentleman's department. The cost will be very moderate, and it is very important and will be permanent. The dredge was taken away from there and sent to Larry's River, Guysborough county, though the work there is not as important, nor of such public requirement as that at Fourchu. Larry's River is surrounded by harbours, whereas Fourchu has no harbour on the east nearer than Louisburg, which is more than twenty-five miles away, and on the west, St. Peter's, which is fifty miles away. I trust that when the dredge completes her work there she will be sent to Fourchu to complete the work that has been begun there.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** I understand that to complete the work my hon. friend (Mr. Gillies) is speaking of, would require three months. As soon as I find time to do that work, I will gladly do it.

Mr. GILLIES. I would like to ask the Minister if I may expect the dredge to be sent there some time during the present season.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** I cannot speak positively, but my chief engineer tells me that he hopes to be able to send the dredge there this season.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I wish to call the attention of the Minister to changes in the staff of the dredge "Canada." Some time ago my hon. colleague (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) who is absent from the House to-day, put some questions to the Ministry as