

Mr. MILLS. Then the hon. gentleman has not made any calculations as to the number of letters going through the post paying double postage.

Mr. CARLING. I have not.

Mr. SCRIVER. I observed, not long ago, that the post office authorities in the United States estimated that a considerable loss would result from the reduction of the rate of postage from 3 cents to 2 cents, the amount being about one-tenth of the revenue.

Towards deepening Welland Canal to 14 feet
throughout..... \$500,000

Mr. VAIL. Is it understood that it is the intention to deepen this canal to 14 feet. I did not understand it so this afternoon.

Mr. POPE. The intention is to give 14 feet navigation.

Mr. SHANLY. How soon is it contemplated that this expenditure will result in giving you 14 feet on the Welland.

Mr. POPE. If we had been able to let the contracts, it would have been completed by July or August next, but I have no doubt now it will take next season.

Trent River Navigation \$113,000

Mr. VAIL. What do the receipts of this canal amount to ?

Mr. POPE. This is for constructing locks and the improvement of navigation between Lakefield and Balsam Lake; only a certain portion of the system has been in operation.

Mr. VAIL. I find that a certain sum is put down annually for expenses and repairs, and it seems to me a very large expenditure, unless there are receipts from it. Surely there must be some tolls. It seems an easy thing to vote these large sums for Ontario, while we, in the Maritime Provinces, find it difficult to get \$1,000 or \$2,000 for a pier, or some other small work, which may be of importance the whole year around—while this canal is only used in the summer and autumn months.

Mr. MULLOCK. The hon. gentleman does not understand the geography of the country through which this canal passes, though, of course, it is quite right for any hon. gentleman to obtain all the information on this or other proposed votes. We are not now discussing the question as to whether or not the country has pledged itself to this Trent Valley Canal. That section of country has been looking forward for a long time when it might have a great canal system connecting the northern system of waters with Lake Ontario. Whether this system will be as successful as it is hoped for, I am unable to say. There are various theories expressed on that point, but the House, some time ago, pledged itself to this system of internal development, and I suppose if the House should now discontinue this work, considerable sums already expended would be rendered useless. Perhaps the Minister will inform me if I am correct in saying that this is part of a scheme for a through system ?

Mr. POPE. Yes.

Mr. MULLOCK. The idea being to continue this expenditure, until ultimately you connect the northern waters with Lake Ontario, by means of a canal system.

Mr. SHANLY. Georgian Bay and the Bay of Quinté ?

Mr. MULLOCK. Yes. Before concluding, I would like to ask the Minister of Railways if he can give us an idea when the canal system will be completed ?

Mr. BOWELL. Part of that canal was built in 1818.

Mr. POPE. Of course, these works are quite independent of other works, of which surveys have to be made, but the time when they will be completed is a matter which cannot be decided yet. For instance, there is the Fenelon Falls Canal, for which Mr. Manning is the contractor, and which

is to cost \$120,000, and to be completed this year; the depth of the water is to be 5½ feet. Then there is the Buckhorn Canal, George Goodwin, contractor, and the cost, \$91,600, and that will be completed this year. Then there is Burleigh Canal, George Goodwin, contractor, and the cost \$176,700, of which \$60,000 is to be expended this year.

Mr. MILLS. This was under the Ontario Government once.

Mr. BOWELL. Before the late Dominion Government went out of power, they passed an Order in Council transferring the whole of the Trent works to the Local Government; but the Local Government failed to carry out the provisions of the law to make the transfer valid, and when the present Dominion Government came into power we thought the work of sufficient Dominion importance not to carry out that arrangement, and we annulled it. I might mention to the hon. member for Digby (Mr. Vail) that part of these works were built soon after 1812, when the scheme was first adopted. Some of the locks were getting into decay, and in order to utilise the inland waters as much as possible, those locks, and that portion of the canal, particularly, at Chisholm's Rapids, have been put into repair, to keep them from rotting, so that when the system is complete they can be used.

Mr. VAIL. The hon. member for North York (Mr. Mulock) seems to think I do not understand the geography of the country. I have travelled a little through Ontario. I do not know whether my hon. friend has had the opportunity of travelling through the Maritime Provinces or not; but if he takes a trip down that way, he will find that these little ponds and creeks in Ontario are insignificant in comparison with the broad Atlantic; he will see that we are a maritime people; that we want a trade with all the world; that a large proportion of our people are on the water all the year round, and that we require breakwaters and piers, such as are not required in the Upper Provinces. I have not the slightest objection to any grants being made that will increase the trade and commerce of the Upper Provinces; but I merely take advantage of this opportunity to point out to the Government that while we are spending these large sums for canal accommodation in the Upper Provinces our public works in the Lower Provinces are in a state of decay, and that unless something is done very soon I am sure our trade will suffer; and I am sure no expenditure could be made that our people would value more than an expenditure in connection with navigation securities. Reference has been made to the former Government. I may say that the average expenditure for the Province of Nova Scotia during the four years I had the honor of a seat in the Government was something like \$240,000 a year, whereas I find in the Estimates brought down now a sum of \$1,500 for the whole Province of Nova Scotia; and last year the amount was \$40,000. I do not, of course, know what the Supplementary Estimates will show, but I hope it will be something large. I hope this matter will be taken into the consideration of the Government.

Mr. MULLOCK. I would like to ask the Minister of Railways and Canals if any expenditure has been decided upon, or whether any plan has been considered for connecting the Trent waters with the upper waters ?

Mr. POPE. No plan has been decided upon. Surveys are going on, and when the reports are in we shall decide.

Mr. MULLOCK. Where are the surveys going on ?

Mr. POPE. In the upper waters. I think the hon. member for North York was a little severe on the hon. member for Digby. He has travelled a good deal; as he says, he has been often afloat, and as he is a man of years,