

canal was not made to the full width at the bottom.

Mr. FOSTER. What will be the total cost?

Mr. GRAHAM. Between \$71,000 and \$72,000. The estimates have been made up

Mr. J. D. REID. Is it under contract?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes.

Mr. J. D. REID. Who is the contractor?

Mr. GRAHAM. W. Flint. He was the lowest of three tenderers.

Mr. J. D. REID. How long ago was the contract given and what length of time was allowed for the completion of the work?

Mr. GRAHAM. The contract was let about a year ago. It was to have been completed by the 1st of August of this year.

Mr. J. D. REID. How much has been done and how much has been paid the contractor on account?

Mr. BERGERON. What was the amount of the contract?

Mr. GRAHAM. The contract price was \$72,000. The estimates have been made up several months and the statement is months behind.

Mr. FOSTER. As an older man than my hon. friend I would give him a piece of advice. At this stage, when so much depends on the despatch of business, if he would take an hour or two and go over these estimates with his officials before coming to the House he would have the answers ready to these questions, which must be put on every estimate, and we would get through much faster. It seems to take him a lot of consultation with men who do not know much about it before he can give any answer.

Mr. GRAHAM. My deputy is not here and has not been here for weeks, and I am getting the estimates through without him.

Mr. FOSTER. That makes it all the more necessary that the hon. gentleman should have a consultation with his other officials before bringing on his estimates.

Port Colborne improvement, \$115,000.
Port Colborne elevator, \$172,000.

Mr. BENNETT. Will the minister state how much has been expended, first, on the so-called improvements and then on the elevator, and the condition of the elevator to-day and the amount he intends spending next year?

Mr. GRAHAM. Port Colborne improvements, total estimate, \$1,000,000. Expended up to 30th September, \$1,537,510. Estimated cost of elevator, machinery and foundation, \$750,000. Total expended up to 30th

Mr. GRAHAM.

September, \$420,750. The elevator is nearing completion. We extended the time for finishing the contract. It will be ready in a very few weeks.

Mr. BENNETT. How much will it cost to complete the improvements, apart from the elevator?

Mr. GRAHAM. This vote is expected to finish the entire thing.

Mr. BERGERON. What was the original price of the contract?

Mr. GRAHAM. The contract was for \$637,000 made in 1906. It will cost to complete about \$750,000.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. minister tell us what assets we shall have after this expenditure?

Mr. GERMAN. I think I can answer the question of the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster). In the first place, we have one of the best harbours on Lake Erie. We have 22-foot navigation where, formerly, there was practically no harbour—at any rate, no harbour of refuge. We have not merely one of the best, but the best elevator in America. That is acknowledged by elevator men who have come to see it, and it has been visited by many of them. It has a capacity of 800,000 bushels, with the machinery sufficient to operate an elevator of a capacity of 2,000,000 bushels. The additions to this elevator which will bring it up to the capacity of 2,000,000 bushels will cost, perhaps, one-third of the expenditure already made on the elevator. The intention is to tranship grain at Port Colborne on full canal-sized boats and create a channel of grain transportation from the west to the seaboard. I believe that if the scheme is carried out effectively, intelligently and energetically, it will afford means of transport of all the grain that will be grown in the Northwest Territories as well as a considerable part of that grown in the United States for a great many years to come—at least for the time it will take to build new canals between the upper lakes and Montreal.

Mr. KEMP. What remains to be done in order to carry out this scheme?

Mr. GERMAN. Very little remains to be done to carry out the scheme as originally intended. The minister has said that the vote he is proposing will complete all the improvements in the harbour at Port Colborne. It will complete all the improvements for which the vote is asked. There will be other improvements, not of any great extent, which will be necessary in order to make the harbour such as was originally intended. The elevator is completed. I have said before, and have not changed my opinion, that it was a mistake not to make it a two mil-