

it will at least enable vessels that are owned there to carry on the trade. There was a very urgent necessity for this work. The town required it, the country generally required it, and the trade of the town could not be properly carried on without it. It is not by any means, money thrown away. I know that my constituents are largely interested in the town of Collingwood because many of them do their trade there, and the same remark would apply to all south of the Georgian Bay. I am quite sure that if the Minister undertakes to complete the work, though it may require a large amount of money, he will be justified in making that expenditure, because the importance of the trade of the place is entitled to it.

Mr. WALLACE. This is only part of the scheme to make Collingwood harbour a good harbour, and I think it very necessary that the money should be expended, and expended judiciously, but the Minister should give the House an outline of the work. As I know from my visit there, the harbour itself requires deepening on account of the falling away of the water, and on account of the larger class of vessels that are now navigating the upper lakes. Would the Minister explain what the whole programme of the improvements comprises?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am sorry not to be in the position to give more information. I have had a good deal of communication with the mayor, and the city council, and the people of Collingwood, and I have had several interviews with the Grand Trunk Railway Company. I understood from the people of Collingwood that these improvements would be sufficient for the time being.

Mr. WALLACE. Does that complete the work.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I do not say that by any means. I say that it is considered as sufficient for the time being.

Mr. WALLACE. They are deepening the channel going in. When they get into the harbour would they not require to deepen the harbour so as to accommodate these larger vessels? The navigation way that was sufficient ten or fifteen years ago, is not sufficient under the present circumstances when there are larger vessels trading on the lakes than formerly.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I quite understand that, and the work we are now doing is precisely what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) points out. The first part of the work is the dredging of 2,000 feet outside the harbour to a depth of twenty feet, and then we dredge on the inside of the harbour to eighteen feet.

Mr. McCARTHY. I understand that this work which is now in progress, and which I believe has been contracted for, is to do

Mr. SPROULE.

all that is proposed or required to be done in the harbour. The town, and the railway company interested in the town, agreed to give \$25,000 towards that work, and an arrangement was entered into by the late Government to the effect that if the town and the railway company would give the \$25,000, the Government would supply whatever sum further was required in order to make a complete and perfect job.

Mr. SPROULE. The Minister says the town is giving none of this money.

Mr. McCARTHY. Not any part of the \$80,000, but the town is giving \$25,000 towards the total sum.

Mr. SPROULE. \*I asked was the \$25,000 included in the contract which amounts to \$140,000, and I understood the Minister to say "no."

Mr. McCARTHY. I was not in the House at the time. When the town of Collingwood pressed for these improvements some four or five years ago, the late Government sent an engineer to Collingwood and had an estimate made of what it would require and what it would cost. In January last year the Government called for tenders for that work as specified by their engineer. Tenders were received, but owing to the fact that no money was granted during the session of 1896 the work was not awarded. The matter thus stood when the change of Administration took place, and the result was that one of the tenderers, Messrs. Boon and Armstrong, tendered at a much lower sum than the Government engineer estimated, and the contract was awarded to the firm for about \$140,000. I understand also, that the town are to contribute towards that the balance of the \$25,000 which they have not already spent. During the summer or spring of 1896, a certain sum was spent under an arrangement made with the Government that that amount should be credited on the \$25,000 which the town and the railway company agreed to give between them. The balance of that, I understand the town is prepared to hand over to the Government.

Mr. SPROULE. It seems to me that the Minister should take advantage of their offer and have it included, because it would be a saving of so much money. They are quite willing and ready to give it.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am quite prepared to take it.

Mr. BENNETT. The Minister of Public Works has failed to state to the House, what must be the most important question in the whole matter, and that is: What is his intention to do in reference to Collingwood harbour. He tells the House frankly that he proposes in the coming season, and under the present contract, to make the channel of a certain width, 450 feet. He