

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not a complaint has come to the department regarding the dredging at Port Credit. I went there myself and came to the conclusion that it would be in the public interest that there should be good wharf and dockage accommodation at that place. The company owning the brick works and the dock built a breakwater and agreed that the public would have at all times the use of that dock, so that it is open to the public just as much as any dock in any harbour. At old Port Credit, the dock is owned entirely by a private company. That was a most unfortunate policy, but the old government of Ontario, long before confederation, gave away many harbours to private companies.

Mr. BLAIN. My hon. friend has purchased many of them back.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, and that is a good policy. I think that the government should own every important harbour on the Great Lakes and develop them in the public interest. Port Credit is a private harbour. It was thought that the government dredge could do the dredging at this new dock rather better than the dredge owned by the private company.

Mr. BLAIN. Why?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I do not know exactly. It may have been owing to the depth of water, as some dredges can dredge better at a certain depth of water than others, or it may have been due to some difference in the material. The company put its dredge to work in the old harbour and did more work there than the government dredge did in the new. The facilities for transportation traffic at Port Credit have thereby been greatly increased, and my hon. friend, instead of finding fault, should give the department credit for the work done.

Mr. BLAIN. As I understand the minister's statement, there were two works done—one on Lake Ontario in front of the property owned by the brickyard company.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The owners of which built a breakwater which gives shelter and creates a good harbour.

Mr. BLAIN. And the same brick company has built another wharf there on private property, and my hon. friend has allowed the company's dredge to dredge out the lake in front of its own wharf which it constructed.

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, it is dredging the approach at the old Port Credit harbour in the harbour.

Mr. BLAIN. At whose request did my hon. friend take the public money and dredge out the approach in the interests of a private company.

Mr. BLAIN

Mr. PUGSLEY. We did not dredge it in the interests of a private company. Mr. M. J. Haney, who is the president of the brick manufacturing company at Port Credit, undertook the building of a new dock, excavated out of the dry land, so as to give a well sheltered harbour. He wanted to know if I would dredge the approach from the main channel of the lake into this new dock or basin which this company was creating. He informed me—and I saw the work that had been carried on—that in addition to the bricks which would be shipped by rail, large quantities would be shipped by water, and he proposed to build a breakwater which would give a sheltered harbour. I said I could not undertake the work unless the dock was made open to the public so that every vessel owner would have the same right to use it as the company.

Mr. BLAIN. Is there a contract to that effect?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, filed in the department. Then in exchange for our dredge doing the work there—and it was a better harbour than at old Port Credit—the company's dredge did work at old Port Credit harbour—a work of greater value than the government dredge did at the new harbour. We have not had a complaint on the part of any one. The expenditure is not great, only \$1,700 altogether.

Mr. BLAIN. Both of the works must have been done, according to the minister's statement, alongside private owned property?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No.

Mr. BLAIN. I know something about it. The minister says that the government dredge dredged out Lake Ontario in front of private property.

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, in front of a new dock which is to be a public dock.

Mr. BLAIN. The fact is that the money was expended immediately in front of property owned by the brickyard company.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I admit that.

Mr. BLAIN. Now the minister says that the company constructed a breakwater there?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. BLAIN. And the other dredging was done—

Mr. PUGSLEY. In old Port Credit harbour.

Mr. BLAIN. Alongside the brickyard.

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, I said that the other dredging was done in the old Port Credit harbour, and not near the brickyard at all.