

area enclosed had not been dredged out nor fully concreted in the manner suggested by Mr Pilkington; that attempts had been made to "pump out" which had resulted in failure; that towards the construction of the dock proper not anything had been done, and that the whole of the season had been spent on "extra works".

This being the condition of affairs I at once placed the dredging machine at work, had the whole of the unconcreted area cleaned out, and filled with concrete, which was carefully lapped over the rock where it came to the surface. For the purpose of strengthening the concrete wall on the western side, the concrete foundation of the emptying culvert was completed, and against the foot of the eastern wall a mass of rough stone and concrete has been placed.

Work of building the emptying culvert was carried on by tide work, as I did not deem it at all desirable that the concrete walls should be subjected to a greater pressure than that due to 9 ft. of water. Nearly the whole length of this culvert is in place and covered with a mass of rough concrete.

The vacancies behind the walls, into which the tide rose and fall, have been filled in with a gravilly soil taken from the excavation of the roadway leading from the public highway to the dock, and thus all pressure tending to force the walls *inwardly* has to a certain extent been relieved.

On Tuesday last (the 13th), owing to the sudden change which had taken place in the temperature, it was found to be desirable to close the works for the winter, and I have given orders to that effect.

For the completion of this work there still remains to be done:

The excavation and building of nearly *one* third of the body of the dock;

The works at the entrance, consisting of the outer and inner inverts, Caisson Chamber and berth;

The pump well and culverts and drains in connexion therewith;

The Engine house and chimney;

The setting of the boilers, and placing the pumping machinery, and machinery for operating the Caisson;

The erection of the Caisson, and testing it as per contract;

The general completion of the roadway, and grounds surrounding the dock; and

The erection of fencing, and of buildings and placing of tools and machinery required for the execution of repairs.