

own officer. But the expenditure was not made then, for some reason well known to the hon. gentleman, and still better known to some of his colleagues; the work was allowed to go into disrepair, and then, of course, this amount was not sufficient. I am glad, however, to find \$1,500 additional in the Estimates. When will this amount be expended?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. So soon as we are ready to go on with the work in a successful manner.

Mr. GILLIES. I hope the season will not be allowed to run by before the work is entered upon. There is no by-election pending in the county now. This work is a work of great necessity, and it is a crying shame that it was not done last year in consonance with the desire of Parliament that granted the money.

Mr. CLANCY. I had consoled myself with the idea that this \$5,000 was probably intended for improving the navigation of the River Sydenham, but I see nothing in the Main Estimates nor in the Supplementary Estimates so far for that work. The character of the soil is such up there that unless the work is done in one season it might almost as well not be done at all, and unless the work is continued this year what was done last year will be utterly worthless. The navigation will not be much improved unless a dredge is sent there and these bars taken out in one season. Probably there is more trade done in the way of shipping on the Sydenham than on any river of its size in Ontario, and I do not know of any port from which there is so much shipping comparatively as from the port of Wallaceburg. I hope the hon. gentleman will continue the work this year.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My attention has been called to this work and I am confident that when the Supplementary Estimates come down my hon. friend (Mr. Clancy) will not have much to say against the manner in which I will deal with the question.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Is it the intention of the Minister to expend any of this grant on repairs to Main à Dieu breakwater in Cape Breton County? About three years ago an examination was made of the breakwater and an estimate obtained of what it would require to repair the damage done. It is only a small amount but that breakwater originally cost \$15,000 or \$20,000, is of great importance to the people of that coast, and unless it is repaired this year the whole breakwater may be lost.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I will have a note taken of the statement of the hon. gentleman, and we might take a few hundred dollars out of the general vote to repair the damages.

Mr. GILLIES.

Mr. SPROULE. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) to the harbour of Thornbury, a vote for which was passed the other night. He has very kindly provided \$1,000 to repair the wharf there which was very much needed, but I am told by the people that a little dredging is badly required. It is almost impossible for them to get in and out with the small boats unless there is some additional dredging done, and if the Minister should provide a small sum of money for dredging at that harbour it would be appreciated very much by the people. I wish to say a word with regard to Meaford Harbour. The people were very glad to notice an item last year for that harbour but unfortunately the money was not spent. The work is very much needed there, and I hope the Minister will not allow the season to pass by without making the expenditure. If he does that, and spends a few hundred dollars for dredging at Thornbury, the people will be very grateful.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Unfortunately we are short of dredges and I cannot do dredging without dredges. As far as Meaford is concerned the work is under contract.

Mr. SPROULE. The people are quite satisfied with the Minister making a reasonable effort to do this work, and they appreciate the difficulty of his not having dredges. I call the attention of the Minister to it in the hope that he will find a dredge by some means this season.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I quite understand the request of the hon. gentleman.

New dredging plant..... \$60,000

Mr. FOSTER. What plant is to be built next year?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. There is \$25,000 for a new hull for elevator dredge No. 9, which is now at Kamanistiquia River; machinery for the same dredge \$10,000; new boiler for tug "Trudeau" \$3,500, new tug \$21,500.

Mr. FOSTER. Are these being built by contract?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We build them in Sorel. We have a ship yard there, and in spite of what my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) said the other evening I am quite sure we are carrying out the work cheaper there. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) takes great interest in that, and I would be glad, when we have a little more time, if he would go privately into that expenditure.

Mr. FOSTER. I paid a good deal of attention to that for a number of years, and it is a perfect sink hole. Is the hull to be built of iron or wood?