

tered by the company, do use or will use the wharf.

—we will allow the Crown to collect wharfage, both in respect to such portion of our wharf as the vessels may occupy and the government extension, without ourselves making any charge for its public use, and as an equivalent for vessels chartered by us and our own vessels having the use of the government wharf, we will undertake, at our own expense, to keep the whole wharf in repair.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if it were not for the very firm conviction that I have that the Minister of Public Works would be absolutely incapable of doing such a thing as dictating a letter to himself to be signed by somebody else, I would be disposed to remark that that letter is couched in such smooth and skilful terms as to be almost worthy of the fine Italian hand of the hon. genius who presides over the great spending department of the government. The suggestion comes to me the more readily because of a subsequent letter of September 10, written by Mr. Osman, in which he refers to a very pleasant interview which he had had with the minister at St. John a few days before. This letter is dated September 10, and it was written from Hillsboro. The last was September 7, and written from St. John.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Dr. Pugsley,—Referring to the matter of the extension of the wharf at Pink Rock, the details of which we fully discussed during the pleasant interview I had with you in St. John, I now beg to confirm on behalf of the Albert Manufacturing Company and the New Brunswick Gypsum Company the proposition I then made to you.

I think that these letters not only confirm the statement I make, but they show that it was suggested to the minister by an officer of the department that this wharf ought properly to be transferred to the Crown before a public expenditure could be made upon it, and that that was a suggestion which Mr. Osman refused to comply with.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Crocket) is entirely in error. There was not one single dollar of public money expended upon this wharf.

Mr. CROCKET. I cannot understand the hon. gentleman's statement. He took an appropriation from the Committee of Supply the other day of \$10,500, or something of that kind, to complete an extension of the Pink Rock wharf upon which nearly \$5,000 had already been expended.

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is a new wharf.

Mr. CROCKET. Is it independent of the old wharf? I would ask the hon. Minister

Mr. CROCKET.

of Public Works if he could name another case in the history of the Public Works Department where a private wharf has been extended by the government for private or public purposes without the department first acquiring the wharf to which the extension was being made?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, my hon. friend will find an identical case upon the western side of the harbour of St. John.

Mr. CROCKET. Who was the owner of the wharf?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The city of St. John.

Mr. CROCKET. It was a public wharf.

Mr. PUGSLEY. So was this.

Mr. CROCKET. If this is the only instance that the Minister of Public Works can give it is one which does not help his case very much. I do not think it necessary to add anything to the statement I have made. The minister started out with the statement that he could not corroborate the statement which I had made, but before he concluded his speech, he himself absolutely corroborated the precise statement which I had made, viz.: that the wharf had not passed from the hands of the company to the Crown as alleged by the 'Globe'.

Mr. PUGSLEY. While the discussion may be somewhat out of order I presume the House will accord me the privilege of replying to the hon. member for York. I first desire to call your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that the hon. member for York has not denied yet the statement—

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I presume we will have a general discussion on this subject?

Mr. FIELDING. No, I cannot consent to that.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Well, if my hon. friend the Minister of Finance cannot consent to that it had better stop now.

Mr. FIELDING. I think the discussion has rather wandered a little.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The Minister of Public Works had an opportunity of making a full statement. If the debate is going to continue it will have to be general.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I would appeal to the sense of fairness of hon. gentlemen opposite to allow me to make a brief reply, and for this reason that the hon. member for York did not confine himself to the statement in the Toronto 'Globe', but went on with a general discussion.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order. A question of privilege partakes of the nature of a per-