

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Unfortunately I cannot extend any hope to my hon. friend. As he knows numerous calls are made upon us, and we cannot comply with one-tenth of them. I am very sorry I cannot do better with the number of dredges we have.

Mr. McALISTER. I may say that the port of Campbellton is one of the most important ports on the north shore; and any person acquainted with the place will know that the facilities we have are far from adequate to the requirements of the place. The price that lumber has brought in the last few years has been so low that unless it is handled with a great deal of skill and economy, it is impossible to make it pay. As we are situated there, vessels cannot get in to the wharfs, and sometimes, when loaded, they have to remain several days before going out, from the fact that the bar is outside of the loading ground, and they can only get out at the spring tides. Last season the dredge dredged a part of that bar, and the work should be completed. I do not think there is any place in the maritime provinces more needful in this respect at present. At the port of Dalhousie, at the mouth of the harbour, the sand is accumulating around the public wharf, and vessels cannot be got in, and I think if at all possible the dredge should be sent there also.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My chief engineer has taken a note of what my hon. friend has said. I quite realize the importance of the work, but the hon. gentleman will understand that it is impossible to comply with all the demands.

Mr. McALISTER. There are six dredges for the maritime provinces.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. There is one at Prince Edward Island, two working in the St. John harbour, which is a very important and urgent work, and three in Nova Scotia. We gave my hon. friend three months of dredging last year and must give other places a show.

Mr. McALISTER. The way the current runs in this harbour, the bar is filling in constantly, and in a very short time what has been dredged will be filled in again. In the spring, when the river is high, earth and other material running down lodge in the cut, the channel will fill in again unless the cut is made clear through.

Mr. DAVIN. Why has the appropriation for Manitoba been reduced by \$1,800 as compared with last year?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My chief engineer tells me that the \$1,800 of last year was to cover work that had been done and had not been paid for, so that the appropriation is still the same.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) Where is the dredge in Prince Edward Island going to work during the coming season?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. At Charlottetown first, and Summerside afterwards.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that some dredging was done at the breakwater at Souris, two seasons ago, but the work was not completed, and the dredge was to have returned the following spring. The dredge was required there to make the work already done of service and enable the breakwater to be fully used. I hope the hon. Minister will see his way clear to send her there, after she has got through with the western portion of the island, if not sooner. There was also some dredging promised me at Murray River and elsewhere. The latter is becoming quite a central shipping place, and as there is hardly sufficient water there to enable shipping to get backwards and forwards, a little dredging is much required. The hon. gentleman will find in his department a petition from the people of that section some years ago.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. If I had the dredges, I would do all the dredging required, but I cannot comply with all the demands made upon us.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). How many of these dredges are employed in the maritime provinces?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Six.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). How many are to be used in Nova Scotia?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Three, one in Guysborough county, the other at Liverpool, and the other at Yarmouth.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will they be employed at these places the entire season?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Where does the hon. gentleman propose to employ them afterwards?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My chief engineer tells me that our programme is not yet mapped out for Nova Scotia. We have work to do there now, and later on will decide what to do next.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Has any call been made for dredging the port of Halifax?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No, I do not think I received any petition.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). In the vicinity of the new railway wharf?