

and Canals (Mr. Graham). The channel which is used by the larger vessels is the American channel. I think that, if there was no other reason for that improvement, pride in our own country ought to induce the desire that we should have a channel on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence river which could be navigated by steamers ordinarily using that route. There is another thing. There are communities growing up on the Canadian side, and it is desirable, in the interest of these communities, that the Canadian channel should be improved so that the steamers ordinarily navigating the river might give accommodation to them.

Mr. J. HAGGART. What depth of navigation will this work give?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Sixteen feet.

Mr. J. HAGGART. The same as the canals?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. This work has been going on for several years, if I remember correctly?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, not this work.

Mr. HARTY. There never was a vote for it until last year.

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, it was commenced last year.

Mr. SPROULE. We have been told on former occasions of the importance of getting a certain depth of water along the river channel there. I remember distinctly the Hon. Mr. Tarte telling us what was intended to be done, and the work was to be continued for several years until it was accomplished. What I desire to ask is how much of this work has yet to be done, and if, when done, it will give a uniform depth of water in the St. Lawrence channel?

Mr. PUGSLEY. My hon. friend from Kingston gives me a bit of information which had escaped my memory. This also shortens by six miles the round trip between Kingston and Brockville. In answer to my hon. friend from East Grey, I may say that during the past year the work done cost \$8,253. The total estimated cost is \$116,260.35, in addition to which there are superintendence and contingencies, making, in round figures, \$125,000. That will be the total cost of the work, and will give us a comparatively straight channel upon the Canadian side of a depth of 16 feet.

Mr. SPROULE. It will give you a channel between Kingston and Montreal of at least 16 feet?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. PUGSLEY.

Mr. SPROULE. Is one company given the whole contract?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The whole contract at \$3.95 per cubic yard.

Toronto harbour improvements, \$250,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I understood that some gentlemen might possibly want to speak on this item, and it stood over.

Mr. SPROULE. I understand that my hon. friend the member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) desired to speak on it, but he has the misfortune to be absent to-day.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I suppose it had better be carried?

Mr. SPROULE. What is that work for?

Mr. PUGSLEY. For a considerable time there has been pressure to make a new western entrance to Toronto harbour, and this is to continue the work and to complete that western entrance. It will be a great advantage to the city of Toronto. Some of this money may be expended upon improvements at the eastern entrance.

Mr. SPROULE. As there is a good deal of diversity of opinion in regard to what should be done in the best interests of the city, I think it would be better if the minister would leave the item for the present, seeing that there is no member for the city of Toronto here to-day.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is the only item left in the Ontario list, and we cannot pass any resolution at all if we leave one item. Would it do to have it understood that when the hon. member for North Toronto returns, if he desired to do so, he can discuss it upon any other item? It is not a new work, and it was discussed last year. It is under contract. I do not think the hon. member for North Toronto would want to have it delayed, but upon any other item we can give him the opportunity of discussing it.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Before we leave the Ontario items, I would ask, has the government purchased the land for the approach to Grand Bend Pier in my county?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not yet. This vote is to purchase the land to complete the approach to the wharf.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Why was not the land purchased last year when the minister had a vote?

Mr. PUGSLEY. That vote was two years ago and it lapsed.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What is the cause of the delay in purchasing the land?

Mr. PUGSLEY. We could not agree as to the price and we had to expropriate it.