

the Ministers get through with public works.

Mr. BENNETT. Or a post office.

Mr. QUINN. Yes, I understand that the Finance Minister has got a post office in Shelburne, but the hon. gentleman from Inverness (Mr. McLennan) must be contented with less. The Cabinet Ministers are so weak in their constituencies that thousands of dollars must be expended in their counties before the rank and file of the party are attended to.

Mr. GILLIES. I sympathize with my friend from Inverness (Mr. McLennan) because I know that the work which he has called to the attention of the Minister deserves every consideration. I have already called to the attention of the Minister of Public Works that we require more dredges in the lower provinces, but he has been sitting there year after year and he has not done anything in that respect.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have not been here very long.

Mr. GILLIES. You have been there three sessions, and you show no improvement, and it is about time for the Minister to try his prentice hand in that direction. The harbour of refuge at Fourchie in the eastern part of Nova Scotia deserves his most earnest and immediate attention. The Minister has some acquaintance, I hope, with the geography of that interesting section of the county, and if so he will know that from the harbour of Louisbourg on the eastern coast up to St. Peter's harbour, a distance of sixty miles, there is not a single harbour of refuge for a ship or a boat except the small breakwater at L'Ardoise. That section of the country is inhabited by fishermen where hundreds and hundreds of boats are pursuing their precarious avocation, and the hon. Minister will understand how necessary it is to have a harbour of refuge on that iron-bound coast. Fourchie is twenty-two miles west of Louisbourg and thirty miles east of St. Peter's, and for that whole distance there is not a place for a boat or a vessel to find shelter. The late Government sent a dredge there which did considerable work, but last year the Minister of Public Works took the dredge from there in a summary way and sent it to Wallace, in the county of Cumberland, the coast of which is dotted with harbours and not so much in need of dredging. The Minister's engineer can tell him that there is no comparison between the needs of Wallace and the needs of Fourchie and that other place to which my hon. friend from Inverness (Mr. McLennan) called attention. I think the Minister is deserving of censure for not having asked Parliament for a vote for the construction of more dredges for the maritime provinces, but scarce as are the dredges under his control, I would ask that

some of them be taken away from those points where they are not really required and sent to places where there is urgent necessity for them. The Minister of Finance can have a public building at Liverpool in his county, and he can have dredges at Lockeport and Barrington where they are not required.

In the county of Shelburne, surrounded as they are with harbours and the coast indented with places of shelter, compare them with the counties of Inverness or Richmond, and they fade into insignificance. I would ask the hon. Minister to take the advice of his responsible officers who are, I know, conscientious men and good officers, and not yield to the importunities even of a Minister. If he would talk the matter over with his officers for half an hour and discuss the necessities of the places to which the hon. member for Inverness and myself have drawn his attention, he would not fail to do them justice. I ask him now if it is really his intention to do what he promised last year, namely, to have further work done at the harbour of Fourchie. I do not ask him to consider my political exigencies, but to let them weigh for nothing in the balance, and he can have all the votes, if he will only send a dredge there. If the hon. Minister will do so, he will do an act that will reflect credit on himself and the department, and be an act of justice to a very deserving and large class of people.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am much surprised indeed to find that my hon. friends have discovered that there are not enough dredges in the maritime provinces.

Mr. GILLIES. We discovered it long ago.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Then, they should have acted long ago. I have given to the maritime provinces one dredge more than they ever had before.

Mr. GILLIES. The hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken. The construction of the dredge "Cape Breton" was provided for by the late Government before he was ever sworn in.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. What is perfectly true is that there is one more dredge working in the maritime provinces than there was previously. We have not sufficient dredges, and consequently are unable to do all the dredging required. The port to which the hon. gentleman refers may be very interesting, but there are others just as interesting, and from which petitions are pouring in upon us. I can only promise that I will work the dredges every day in the year, if that be possible, and shall be very glad indeed to do work wherever required.

Mr. GILLIES. The hon. gentleman is wrong in saying that there is now one more dredge in the maritime provinces than there