

the Murray canal, and was impressed with the advantage of that well-sheltered route.

Mr. PORTER. Have the representations which I have outlined been made to the department, by the Board of Trade, acting in conjunction with the city council of Belleville?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, and a report has been made by the resident engineer.

Mr. BLAIN. When the minister is laying out the programme for the coming season, I suppose he will keep in view Port Credit, where he has been doing some work during the past year. We are very glad to know that he is looking into that important port, and expending some money there; but I do not know whether the money was expended on the proper point or not. Some complaints have reached me that it was expended not so much in the interest of the public as in the interest of some private firms doing business there.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Port Credit is owned by a private company, is it not?

Mr. BLAIN. Yes, but I understood that the minister was expending some money there last year.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I may say to my hon. friend that I was at Port Credit and looked into the situation. The old Port Credit harbour is owned by a private corporation. The depth of water is not very great, and we did some dredging to give an entrance to the place where the brick works of the company of which Mr. Haney is president are situated. I saw there a very large operation being carried on.

Mr. BLAIN. That was not in the harbour at all.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not at the old Port Credit harbour. In return for the work we did there, Mr. Haney's dredge did dredging in the old Port Credit harbour, and he agrees to give to the public the free use of the new basin and which he has constructed. If my hon. friend looks into the work which we have done, I think he will see that it was very much in the public interest.

Mr. BLAIN. The work was done in the manner I have stated. My hon. friend has taken the dredge at Port Credit, and dredged out the lake in the interest of a private company, and has overlooked altogether the dredging in the harbour itself.

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, no.

Mr. BLAIN. He has left the dredging of the harbour to the gentleman who owns the brickyard. Is that a usual policy of my hon. friend? I may say that when my hon. friend did the county the honour of paying it a visit, he did not think it

worth his while to notify myself. I would have been glad to have come down and looked over the work.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I went there on very short notice. I did not know until the morning of the day that I went there that I was going, and there was not opportunity of getting in touch with my hon. friend.

Mr. BLAIN. What information has the minister in respect to the work which was done in the harbour by the gentleman who owns the private brickyard?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The work has been done and reported upon.

Mr. BLAIN. I would like my hon. friend to lay on the table the report, because this is a new policy altogether—to use the public money in dredging out the lake in the interest of a private company, and to get the gentleman who owns the private company to do the dredging of the harbour in the interest of the public. I think we should have a complete report from my hon. friend as to how this work was brought about, and at whose solicitation. My hon. friend thought it well to spend public money which was not voted for the purpose of dredging out Lake Ontario in front of the brickyard there. I am sorry that my hon. friend, notwithstanding my earnest appeal in past years for the expenditure of some money there in the interest of the public, would think it a proper policy to spend the money in the interest of a private corporation. I am not very conversant with it.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I rather thought my hon. friend was not.

Mr. BLAIN. I am quite sure I am as conversant with it as my hon. friend is. My hon. friend would not expect me to be conversant with a policy which nobody ever heard of. My requests were always that my hon. friend would spend some money in the Port Credit harbour in the interest of the public.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Which is owned by a private corporation.

Mr. BLAIN. Which is owned by a private corporation. My hon. friend should not allow that to interfere with the expending of money, because he states now that the gentleman who owns the brick works has expended some money in dredging at the privately-owned wharf. Why did not my hon. friend put the government dredge there, and do the work in such a way that there would be no complaint from the residents of the village? If my hon. friend wished, I think I could give some reasons to account to the committee why this was done, but perhaps I had better reserve these for some future time.