

Hon. Mr. TARTE. Will he be good enough to tell me, then, on what dredges he intends to expend it this year?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. In the maritime provinces, on the 'St. Lawrence,' the 'Canada,' the 'New Dominion,' the 'Prince Edward,' the 'Cape Breton,' the 'George Mackenzie,' the 'New Brunswick,' the tug 'Cricket'; in Quebec and Ontario, the 'Challenge,' the 'Nipissing,' the 'Ontario,' the 'Queen,' the 'St. Louis,' the 'Richelieu,'; in Manitoba, the 'Winnipeg,' the 'Sir Hector'; in British Columbia, the 'Mud Lark.' The other votes to which my hon. friend refers are, I think, special votes for special purposes. When we come to those items, I shall have the explanation.

Mr. BARKER. What I would like to get at is this: Has the hon. gentleman received from his officers a statement of what these several dredges require now in the way of repairs? That is the way every business man conducts his business. He does not allow a blank sum to be voted for repairs but he has a report to show either that machines are in good order, or, if they require repairs, stating just what repairs they require. If we are to be told two years hence that these dredges are all out of repair, then I think we are entitled to know now how much the minister proposes to expend on each dredge, to put it in a proper state of repair.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. These estimates are made up on the very basis the hon. gentleman suggests. The estimate made by the officers of the repairs required in each case is as follows: The 'St. Lawrence,' \$3,954; the 'Canada,' \$3,500; the 'New Dominion,' \$2,000; the 'Prince Edward,' \$2,500; the 'Cape Breton,' \$3,500; the 'George Mackenzie,' \$1,000; the 'New Brunswick,' \$1,200; the tug 'Cricket,' \$750; a new sand pump for the maritime provinces, \$1,500; Ontario and Quebec, tugs and scows, \$2,500; the 'Nipissing,' \$2,500; the 'Ontario,' \$2,500; the 'Queen,' \$2,500; the 'St. Louis,' tugs and scows, \$1,800; the 'Richelieu,' \$2,000; the 'Sir Richard,' \$2,000; two stone lifters, \$2,500; one marine boiler, \$2,500; a new dredge now being built at Sorel, \$3,000.

Mr. BARKER. I think the hon. gentleman has got beyond \$30,000 already.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Quite so. These are the reports of the chief engineer of the department. So far he has asked for only \$30,000, which is in the Main Estimates. He goes over in detail the requests of the resident engineers and the officers in charge, and does not always allow them. He cuts these down.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. Are not all these dredges at work?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. They are commencing work now.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. If I understand correctly, that money is asked for repairs next year.

Mr. BARKER. It is for repairs made now.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. No, all those dredges are in working order. I think they were in fairly good shape last year. We had them all repaired.

Mr. BARKER. The question I asked the hon. minister is what amount is required now to put these in good order at present.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. We are simply being asked to vote \$30,000 for repairs next year. These dredges are at work now.

Mr. BARKER. The question I asked the hon. minister was what is required at present to put these dredges in repair. We can then ascertain what is likely to be wanted for incidental repairs during the season.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Most of these dredges only work during the summer season, and are repaired during the winter. In every instance except one, they are at work now. If we were left without a vote of money, and with twenty dredges, scows and barges on our hands, and nothing to keep them in repair, they would soon all stop work, I am afraid, judging by our experience in the past. The expenditure for the year before will be found in the Auditor General's Report, but up to the 30th of December this year, we expended \$10,654 out of this vote. The chief engineer tells me that the repairs necessary since that time have swallowed up nearly the full amount remaining.

Mr. BARKER. Then I understand that the department has spent \$10,000 more than parliament has authorized.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I did not say that. What I said was that up to the 31st of December, 1902—which is six months later than the Auditor General's Report—\$10,654 had been expended out of last year's appropriation.

Mr. BARKER. Are all these dredges at present in good working order? I ask that because two years hence somebody will be here criticising the figures in the Auditor General's Report, and should be able to know whether we started with twenty dredges in good working order, and what was the amount expended from this date on incidental repairs. Does the hon. gentleman say that at present everything is being kept in perfectly good order?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I would not like to go so far. Many of these dredges are old, but they are all in fairly good shape to go to work, with one exception.

Mr. BARKER. Then the money you propose to expend out of the \$30,000 is simply to cover incidental repairs during the year?