

pated, and consequently the money ran short. Is the committee to understand that the minister is under any obligation to keep this company supplied with work, even though they increase the number of their dredges? Is there any understanding with the company that they are to have unlimited employment?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No. We are under no obligation to give additional work to the dredging company, but the company early in the season placed upon the work a very powerful suction dredge, for the purpose of removing the material by hydraulic action and depositing it behind the proposed revetment wall. That was for the purpose of filling in and making ground which would be used in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific terminals. That was very necessary work. Of course, it would be of no advantage to the public to have that material taken out into the lake; it is better to be used there. That dredge, added to the others which the company had already, did a great deal of work, and got ahead more rapidly than we had anticipated. In September, I think, we gave orders to the resident engineer to stop the company dredging, because the appropriation was exhausted. At once the people of Fort William, and especially those connected with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, Mr. Chamberlin, the general manager, and Mr. Hays, the president, communicated with me, representing that it was all important that this work should go ahead. They complained that vessels going to the elevator would be obliged still to go to the Kaministiquia river by a roundabout course. These representations so impressed me, that, in the public interest, as well as in justice to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, as they are paying out millions of dollars in the creation of one of the most magnificent systems of terminals in the world, instead of stopping the work and having these dredges stand idle during a part of the working season, I presented the whole case to council, and authority was given to me to have the work continued to the end of the season, the contractors agreeing to wait until parliament made the necessary appropriation for the purpose.

Mr. HENDERSON. Is the company paid first for taking out the material, and then for depositing it behind the revetment wall? Would there be two payments, or only one?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Only one.

Mr. CROCKET. Before the contract was let, was there an estimate from the resident engineer of the total quantities of dredging that would be required?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. CROCKET. What was the estimate?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I have not that here, but it ran into several millions. I will have it when we are asking for the amount in the main estimates.

Mr. CROCKET. This contract has been running for several years?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. CROCKET. Is it the intention to continue it during the coming season?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes. There is a great deal of work still to be done there. A certain area to be dredged is shown on the plan. It includes a turning basin several acres in extent, a channel to the elevators of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, and widening and deepening the Mission river. When the work is done there will be 18 miles of water frontage at Fort William, with a depth ultimately of 25 feet of water; there will be a channel leading from the Mission river to the elevators of the Grand Trunk Pacific, capable of taking in the largest lake steamers, and there will be a turning basin covering an area of some 30 acres. The Grand Trunk elevator is designed, when the different units are completed, to have a capacity of 30,000,000 bushels. It will be one of the finest elevators to be found anywhere.

Mr. DANIEL. How late in the season is dredging kept up there?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Till about the first of December.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. How many firms are doing the dredging work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Only one at Fort William.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Have they a running contract for the whole thirty acres?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. And their contract covers that stated area?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. For years to come?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The quantity is shown, and when they get done with that quantity, their contract will be completed.

Mr. BLAIN. How many dredges do the government own now?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Between 30 and 40.

Mr. BLAIN. Are they building more every year?

Mr. PUGSLEY. We are building two this year.