

Mr. KENNY. Then I misunderstood the hon. gentleman. As regards the special counties to which the hon. gentleman referred, Shelburne, Cumberland and others, I am not surprised he does not assail the expense of the surveys in those counties, but all he suggests is that it might be better if the expenditure had been postponed. The paternal heart of my colleague took in the whole Province in this matter, and I was glad to find that when he analysed the matter he found no fault with the expenditure, but simply suggested that it should be postponed. I will only say that I hope that the Minister of Public Works will not be deterred by anything that has fallen from the hon. gentleman opposite from commencing some dredging in the county where I was born, and which dredging I consider to be very necessary.

Mr. JONES (Digby). I am exceedingly obliged to the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Jones) for the interest he has taken in his native county, and I can fully endorse all he has said in regard to the necessity of dredging there. I would remind the hon. gentleman that four weeks ago I presented one of the largest petitions ever submitted to this House, signed by a thousand electors, asking that this dredging be done, and now that the Opposition have joined with me in order to make my case doubly strong, I hope the Minister will see his way perfectly clear to put an amount in the Estimates for that work, because he will find no opposition on the other side of the House and none on this side. This work is necessary because our trade is very largely increasing. At present we are building a fine steamer to run around St. Mary's Bay and to New Brunswick, which will be launched in the summer, and it will be necessary for navigation purposes that the dredging work be done there this year. I believe the engineer has reported on the advisability of making surveys again, although they were made about two years ago. I again thank the senior member for Halifax for his support, and no doubt the work will now be done.

Mr. JONES (Halifax). My hon. colleague could not have quite apprehended the scope of my argument, or he would have found, on the principle that the greater includes the less, that my recommendation extended to my own County of Halifax as well as to others, provided there was an absolute necessity for that expenditure. The hon. gentleman is aware that I have never been backward at any time in defending my county, and I have led him in the recommendations, and he was not always willing, but he was compelled to follow in those recommendations. If he had apprehended the scope of my argument, it was: that if in Halifax County there was a public work required, the Government should make that expenditure, and if it is not required, I do not ask it simply to have the money expended in Halifax. But if the Government finds that in the public interest of this country many harbors in Halifax County require dredging, it is their duty to make that expenditure, whether the member for the county may support or oppose it. I do not come to the low level which some hon. gentlemen seem to think proper to take, namely, that simply because they are supporters of the Administration they are entitled to have money spent for political purposes in their own counties, and that counties of more importance,

with greater commercial interests at stake, should be discarded until such time as the hon. Minister of Public Works is disposed to look into it. I take the higher stand, that if the work is in the public interest, it should be carried out, no matter who represents the county. That was the ground I took in the observations I made, and I am sorry if I did not make my remarks clear to the usually astute mind of my respected colleague (Mr. Kenny).

Mr. CAMERON. The hon. member for Halifax has taken all the counties in the Province of Nova Scotia under his wing, except the county which I have the honor to represent, and he advocates the dredging of harbors in counties in which he finds a large quantity of shipping. He refers, especially, to Arichat, in Richmond, as having two hundred steamers entering its harbor, and he refers to Guysborough as having two hundred and one steamers entering it. He might have referred to North Sydney as having double that number of vessels entering the harbor. I contend it is not these harbors in which large steamers can enter with facility, that require dredging at all. The very argument he used to secure dredging for these harbors is the one which, in my opinion, ought to prevent the Government from dredging there until other sections of the Province which are greatly in need of facilities for shipping are attended to. It is a remarkable fact to us, who know the Province of Nova Scotia so well, that the south and south-eastern coast is amply supplied with harbors, and that if dredging is done there it is not for the purpose of making harbors, but for dredging in the coves and other places inside of the harbors and rivers. I contend, and I think I do so with reason, that Government dredges should not be employed clearing out rivers and around docks and wharves in harbors, which accommodate such shipping as he has referred to, until places like that part of Nova Scotia bordering on the Strait of Northumberland, in Pictou County, Antigonish, St. George's Bay, and the coast of Inverness, have been attended to. In Antigonish, notwithstanding the dredging that has been done, the hon. gentleman intimated that not a single steamer has entered into this harbor. The reason for that is that there is not a single harbor in the County of Antigonish, except one, into which a steamer of even moderate capacity can enter. I represent a county as important as Richmond and Guysborough put together.

Mr. KIRK. No.

Mr. CAMERON. I beg your pardon, and my county is nearly as populous as the two of them put together, and a great deal more important than a dozen of them. There is not a harbor from Cape North to the Strait of Canso, excepting Port Hood, for one hundred and fifty miles along the sea coast, into which a steamer, of even modern capacity, can enter at all; while I find that wharves are being built inside harbors, in other sections of the Province, and that in Prince Edward Island we have no less than thirty wharves built at the expense of this Dominion, I regret to say that only one has been built in the County of Inverness ever since Confederation. We have had a few piers built outside for the purpose of protecting shipping, but inside the harbors we have but one. Twenty years ago, dredging was commenced in the harbor of Cheticamp, and if there were sufficient water to enable