

is nothing wrong about it then there is no reason for suppressing the fact if these gentlemen are in the firm.

Mr. WOOD (Hamilton). Is it a limited company?

Mr. BENNETT. I have asked the Minister that and he has not been able to inform me.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I do not know whether it is a limited company or not. The only thing I know is we have secured a dredge from the Canan, Sadler Company, and the same dredge has been employed by my department for the last eight or ten years under the very same conditions.

Mr. BENNETT. Is it dredge No. 9, please?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes..

Mr. CLARKE. Have any tenders been called for this work which is to cost \$35,000?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No tenders were asked. We are just doing the work by the hour, as I have said.

Mr. BENNETT. I must ask the Minister to please be good enough to answer the question: Is Mr. John A. Barron a member of that concern?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I cannot really say whether he is a member of that firm or not.

Mr. BENNETT. Well, then, can the hon. Minister state whether there is any correspondence on file in his department; or has there been any personal interviews between himself and Mr. Barron as representing this company?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I do not remember that Mr. Barron ever represented himself as one of the firm. He may have spoken to me about the work, but I really do not remember that he has ever said to me that he was a member of the firm. I do not remember either whether there is any correspondence with Mr. Barron. If my hon. friend asks me for the correspondence, I will gladly bring it down.

Mr. BENNETT. As I understand from the drift of the statements of the hon. Minister, Mr. Barron saw him in reference to the contract being performed by this company at Owen Sound, and the question was, no doubt, in his mind whether or not Mr. Barron represented himself to be a member of the firm. Do I understand the Minister to assent to the statement that Mr. Barron has seen him on one or more occasions in reference to this contract being performed by this firm?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I hope my hon. friend will not put in my mouth words which I did not use. I have

Mr. BENNETT.

said that I do not remember whether or not Mr. Barron spoke to me about this. He is a friend of mine, and he may have spoken to me about it, but I really do not remember now.

Mr. SPROULE. Are there two dredges engaged—one at number 9 and one at number 4, or only one at number 9?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Only one dredge is now engaged.

Mr. SPROULE. Is there an overseer who keeps track of the time the dredge is working, entirely independent of the company that is doing the work?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The man engaged by us is a Mr. Ross. He has been recommended to me.

Mr. SPROULE. He is appointed by your department?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes, and we have given a great deal of attention to the work. We have required reports as frequently as possible.

Harbours and Rivers—Manitoba..... \$11,500

Mr. DAVIN. I would like some explanation of this.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The vote for general repairs and improvements is the vote we take every year. We cannot say in advance where the money will be spent. As to the wharves on Lake Winnipeg, they are not yet located. We intend to have surveys with the view of locating them.

Dredging \$218,000

Mr. SPROULE. Will the hon. Minister be good enough to tell us how many dredges we have now available?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We have nineteen dredges in different parts of the country.

Mr. SPROULE. Where are they distributed?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Five in Ontario, five in Quebec, six in the maritime provinces, one in British Columbia, and one in Manitoba.

Mr. SPROULE. Are any of these dredges in the Georgian Bay now?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes, we have one at Collingwood.

Mr. McALISTER. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if we may expect a dredge at Campbellton on the Restigouche this year, to complete what has been done there. A dredge was sent there early last season after navigation opened, but it was removed before the work was completed, and unless it is sent there again soon, the work that has been done will be practically of little use.