

the port of Collingwood, and then next year, or some subsequent year, the Minister will come to the House and make his apologies, and say, It is quite true we have resolved to expend \$150,000, but now that we are doing the work it will be found to be totally inadequate to the requirements, and Parliament will no doubt be asked to vote another \$150,000 to complete the unfinished work. I point out this fact, that the Minister is only getting in the thin end of the wedge, and that, behind the curtain, there is no doubt a proposal to spend on this harbour, not only \$150,000, but a further proposition will be submitted which will involve an expenditure considerably over a quarter of a million. The hon. Minister of Public Works has already frankly stated that, in his opinion, a further expenditure would be necessary there.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.
I never said that.

Mr. BENNETT. If the Minister will not give the House an assurance that a further expenditure will be made there beyond \$150,000 in dredging this trench, it will be utterly impossible for sailing vessels to come in unless they are towed in, and the hon. gentleman is aware that a large carrying trade on the upper lakes is by sailing vessels. The Minister will then have sunk there, if he makes no further expenditure, \$150,000. I am rather inclined to hold the opinion that the Minister is doing exactly what a short time ago he intimated he would do, namely, spend \$150,000 this year and during next and subsequent years, come down to Parliament and ask for further grants in this regard. I should like to ask the Minister this further question: Has an application been made by the contractors, Boon & Armstrong, under which their plant and dredges will be admitted from the United States free of duty?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.
No, there has been no arrangement of the kind. Of course, they will supply their own plant.

Mr. BENNETT. Has the request been made that this plant should be admitted free of duty?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.
I have no knowledge that any request of this kind has been made. In regard to the trench, as the hon. gentleman describes it, it is accepted by the people of Collingwood as a proposition that is satisfactory to them. What I stated was this—that the average width of the dredging to be done was about 450 feet, but inside of the harbour the width would be about 600 feet.

Mr. BENNETT. That is the basin.

Mr. BENNETT.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.
Yes. The work is under contract now, and no further agreement has been entered into between the Government and other parties.

Mr. HAGGART. What is the amount to be given towards the work by the Grand Trunk Railway and also by the town of Collingwood? The Minister has stated that the late Government decided to ask for tenders for this work. One of the conditions was that a certain sum was to be contributed by the Grand Trunk Railway and another sum by the town of Collingwood, and there was no undertaking entered into by the Government that even then they would enter into a contract. Is the Minister aware that a report was made by the marine officer, by an officer of the Imperial service in the employ of this Government, in which he showed that within any reasonable expenditure it would be impossible to make a harbour at Collingwood? Is the hon. Minister aware of that fact?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.
I understand there has been a report made by an engineer; but, at the same time, I have in my own department engineers in whom I have confidence. They have prepared plans and have made careful examinations in regard to the practicability of the work. I may have acted wrongly in carrying out a plan which was adopted by the Conservative Government. I hope, however, I have not been misled. Since the acceptance of the plan by the town of Collingwood, I have not entered into any arrangement with other parties.

Mr. BENNETT. I desire to ask if the Controller of Customs has had any application made by the contractors, Boon & Armstrong, asking that the dredging plant for the work at Collingwood be admitted free of duty, and if there is any communication in the department in relation thereto?

The CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I am sorry I cannot give the hon. gentleman a definite answer. My impression is that some applications have been made, but where the works were situated or who were the parties mentioned, I cannot at present recall. If the hon. gentleman desires, I can obtain the information for him.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. Minister of Public Works can surely give the committee accurate information as to the amounts to be given by the town of Collingwood and the Grand Trunk Railway.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.
There has been no arrangement made. We have entered into a contract for \$144,000; there is no arrangement made beyond that.