

HOW THE PEOPLE'S MONEY IS SPENT BY THE GOVERNMENT

Discussion in Parliament on the Various Appropriations For New Brunswick Harbors and Rivers--\$5,000 Paid For Land Which the Owner Had Formerly Offered to Sell For \$1,000--Mr. Pugsley's Promise to Build Wharves at Fredericton and How He Kept it--The St. John River Wharves.

The discussion of the New Brunswick harbors and rivers appropriations in committee of supply in the House of Commons last Thursday night elicited considerable information for the people of New Brunswick.

Buctouche Channel Graft.
On an item of \$2,500 for "Buctouche channel through beach," Mr. Pugsley informed Mr. Crockett that the expenditure last year on this work was \$2,873, and that the work was done by labor.

Mr. Daniel--What is the rise and fall of the tide?
Mr. Pugsley--I do not know, but I suppose it will be ten or twelve feet, will it not?
Mr. Daniel--It would not be more than about six feet I should think up there.

Mr. Pugsley--This is to give a depth of three feet at low tide. If there is a tide of 6 feet it would give a depth of 9 feet at high tide.

Mr. Sproule--If you have a depth of three feet at low tide, how can you do it without a dredge?
Mr. Pugsley--They can do it with scrapers very well.

Mr. Crockett--I notice in the Auditor General's Report there is an account of an expenditure of \$3,500 for the last fiscal year under the head of "Buctouche, N. B., Channel Through Beach." I observe an item of "legal services, R. A. Irving, Buctouche, \$122.10." Would the minister explain what that was for?
Mr. Pugsley--I am unable to do so; I have not the memorandum here.

Mr. Crockett--I notice there is a purchase of a site for \$500. I would like to know whether this \$122 bill of Mr. Irving's is in connection with the searching of the title. It seems a pretty good bill for a small property like that.

Mr. Pugsley--I will have that looked into.
Mr. Crockett--I notice also that the barrister's father seems to have done pretty well in connection with this item. J. D. Irving, for the use of an engine for 37 1/2 days receives \$8 per day and for the use of a scow for 40 1/2 days receives \$2 a day, which with other items make \$582.11.

Mr. Pugsley--I suppose that would be for a digger, which would be operated by a steam winch.
Mr. Crockett--Also I see that the same barrister has been supplying stone as well as legal services, for which he received \$2.25 per cubic yard, amounting to \$225. This appears to have been a fairly profitable undertaking for the Irvings.

Mr. Pugsley--That would depend on whether they were paid more than reasonable prices.

Expenditures at Campbellton.
In reply to Mr. Daniel, on an item of \$25,000 for "extension, repairs, etc. Campbellton deep water wharf," the minister said the total expenditure at Campbellton to the 31st of March was \$159,154. The dividends cost \$31,297 in addition to a total of \$182,139. The wharf is an extension 300 feet long and 45 feet wide; the dredging was required to give a depth of 25 feet at low water. It is crib work and done by contract.

Cape Bald Breakwater.
On an item of \$15,000 for the Cape Bald breakwater, Mr. Crockett was informed that this was a new work and that the total estimated cost was \$32,000.

Cummings Cove, Deer Island, Wharf, \$23,000.
Mr. Crockett--Will this complete?
Mr. Pugsley--Yes, it is new work, it will be done by public tender.

Dover--Wharves on Petitcodiac River, \$3,000.
Mr. Pugsley--The total cost of this work will be \$5,000.

Mr. Crockett--Does the government build wharves on the Petitcodiac river and pay the total cost on them?
Mr. Pugsley--Yes.

Mr. Crockett--Then why is it that on the St. John river the government contributes only half the cost?
Mr. Pugsley--We have undertaken the building of a number of additional wharves on the St. John river solely at the expense of the government. The arrangement referred to by my hon. friend (Mr. Crockett) was entered into when the Hon. Mr. Foster was Minister of Finance, and I do not know what reason there was for it.

Mr. Crockett--It has been carried on for twelve years by your government.

Mr. Pugsley--Yes, except that we have extended quite largely the work which is done altogether at the expense of this government. In the estimates of this year there is an amount of \$20,000, which has never appeared before, for the purpose of building wharves on the St. John river at the entire cost of the federal government.

Harvey Bank, Wharf, Cribwork, \$4,500.
Mr. Crockett--Is this a new wharf?
Mr. Pugsley--Yes, it is to rebuild the old wharf. This is the total cost.

Heron Island--Wharf, \$3,000.
Mr. Crockett--Is this new?
Mr. Pugsley--No, it is to extend the wharf built by the provincial government.

Mr. Crockett--What county is it in?

Mr. Pugsley--Restigouche. The estimated cost is \$4,000.

Kouchibouguac Harbor Improvements, \$3,700.
Mr. Daniel--Will this complete the work?
Mr. Pugsley--Yes.

Lamouche Wharf Improvements, \$2,500.
Mr. Daniel--Will this complete?
Mr. Pugsley--This will complete the improvements.

Leonardsville, Deer Island--Reconstruction of Wharf, \$14,000.
Mr. Pugsley--This is to provide for the reconstruction of an extension of a wharf formerly built by the provincial government.

Mr. Daniel--Will this finish the work?
Mr. Pugsley--Yes.

Lorneville Breakwater Wharf, \$29,000.
Mr. Pugsley--This will complete the work.

Mill's Point Wharf, \$29,000.
Mr. Pugsley--This will complete the payments.

Mr. Crockett--What will the total be?
Mr. Pugsley--\$20,500.

Mr. Crockett--Was there a contract?
Mr. Pugsley--Yes. The contractor was Mr. Fawcett, who was the lowest tenderer.

Moncton Wharf Enlargement, \$16,000.
Mr. Crockett--Is that the whole cost?
Mr. Pugsley--It may take a little more to finish it, but not very much more.

Mr. Daniel--There was nothing done on that last year?
Mr. Pugsley--There was a commencement made by the contractor, but difficulties have arisen, and we shall have to ask for new tenders under a somewhat changed plan.

Mr. Crockett--Was the old wharf built by this government?
Mr. Pugsley--Yes, by the Railway Department. It is a railway wharf.

Mr. Daniel--When were these tenders called for?
Mr. Pugsley--Last May or June.

Pugsley's Fredericton Promise.
Mr. Crockett--In this connection I would like to remind the minister of a promise he made to some of the business men of Fredericton in regard to wharf accommodation there.

On the eve of the election he sent a telegram or letter saying that he would do something toward the building of wharves at Fredericton. I see that there is nothing for that purpose in the estimates. I would like to ask the minister why he is not carrying out that promise.

Mr. Pugsley--My attention was called to the desirability of assisting the city of Fredericton in giving wharf accommodation, and my hon. friend is quite right that I stated that I would recommend to my colleagues the taking of their request into favorable consideration. There is nothing in the estimates of this year, because that will be an entirely new work, and in accordance with our policy we have postponed the construction of this wharf at Fredericton as we have many other public works throughout Canada.

Mr. Crockett--The minister, having said that he would take it into his favorable consideration, I suppose says it in his favor for consideration until the 26th of October.

Mr. Pugsley--I have not changed my mind about it.

Mr. Crockett--May we expect that this promise which the minister gave to the people of Fredericton will be carried out next year?

Mr. Pugsley--If my hon. friend will look at my promise and bear in mind what I said with regard to other public works, he will find that in due course my promise will be carried out.

Mr. Sproule--Was the hon. gentleman in harmony with the government in that policy not to spend anything on new works in the coming year?

Mr. Pugsley--Of course, every member of the government is in harmony with the government in that.

Mr. Sproule--How does that comport with the promise he made to the people down there that he would recommend the expenditure to his colleagues?

Mr. Pugsley--I never said that it would be done this year.

Mr. Sproule--The hon. gentleman left the people with the impression that he was going back to recommend the expenditure to his colleagues; then he comes here and says that his policy is not to do it. He is not in harmony with himself.

Mr. Blain--Are we to understand that the hon. gentleman sent a telegram during the election?

Mr. Pugsley--I sent either a telegram or a letter, and whatever it was I have no objection to it being produced, and I may say that I have no doubt that it was read at the council meeting in the very terms in which it was sent, without any alteration.

Mr. Blain--My hon. friend says it was read at a public meeting during the heat of the election?

Mr. Pugsley--I do not know that it was not sent for that purpose.

Mr. Blain--It was sent in response to a request from the mayor of Fredericton. I received a letter from the mayor, and I wrote a letter in reply; I do not think I sent any telegram.

My letter stated my views, and those views I am prepared to stand by, irrespective of what representative is sent by the county of York to this parliament.

Mr. Blain--My hon. friend will bring down this letter or telegram, I suppose?
Mr. Pugsley--If it is moved for, I will.

Mr. Crockett--I understood the minister to state in his letter that he would recommend this appropriation to his colleagues. I would like to know if he has done that?

Mr. Pugsley--If my hon. friend will produce the letter he will see what I stated.

Mr. Crockett--The hon. minister said to-night that he had stated that he would recommend this appropriation to his colleagues, and I would like him to say whether he has done that.

Mr. Pugsley--I stated that every new work for which tenders had not been called was postponed. That remark applies to a great many job-works for which appropriations were made by parliament last session. My hon. friend can surely understand that, having postponed these works, I would not think of asking my colleagues this session to provide for works for which parliament had not already made appropriations, and in respect of which nothing had been done.

North Head, Grand Manan--Breakwater Wharf, \$7,000.
Mr. Pugsley--That is to continue that work.

Mr. Crockett--How much will it cost?
Mr. Pugsley--A lot of the wharf was washed away in the great storm; it is expected to cost \$46,000.

Pink Rock Wharf, Shepody Bay--Extension, \$5,000.
Mr. Pugsley--That is to complete the extension. A contract will be let.

Point du Chene--Repairs to Breakwater, \$5,000.
Mr. Daniel--Are these repairs required on account of the teredo?
Mr. Pugsley--Not to the same extent as at Cape Tormentine, but we are using creosoted timber to avoid the teredo.

Mr. Daniel--It would seem to be a waste of money to build a wooden breakwater if it is to be destroyed by the teredo.

Mr. Pugsley--The Cape Tormentine breakwater was built a good many years ago, I think under the previous government, and we have to take it as we find it; it is the same with Cape du Chene.

(Continued on page 6.)

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