

ders are addressed in the same handwriting—

Mr. PUGSLEY. Neither of which was accepted by the minister.

Mr. BENNETT. That does not matter.

Mr. MONK. I have not followed the discussion enough to draw conclusions; I am only pointing out the fact. The minister states that the tenders are in different handwriting; but, strange to say, if you compare the body of the writing in the Grant company tender for Midland harbour with the body of the writing in the Spohn company tender for the same work, it is exactly the same; so that although there is something in the contention of the minister that in the two first tenders, which are presumably rival tenders, there is some difference in the body of the tenders though none in the addresses, still if you take another pair of tenders and compare the Grant tender with the Spohn tender, you find them in exactly the same handwriting, whatever conclusion you may draw from the fact. I would like to say, with reference to the dredging in the province of Quebec, that it is considered the greatest windfall possible to obtain a dredging contract from the government. There has been a regular scramble for them for years, and you find people who have had no experience at all going into the dredging business. Those who have been successful in obtaining such contracts in the province of Quebec live very well. I know these men. They were in rather penurious circumstances before they went into this business, but now they dazzle us with the luxury of their living. Some are lawyers. My hon. friend mentioned Mr. Morgan. Mr. Morgan has gone into the dredging business and I remember when Mr. Morgan was practising law.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Has he made a fortune out of it?

Mr. MONK. It is very difficult to say of any man that he has made a fortune, but the indications are that he found the dredging business more profitable than the practice of law.

Mr. LEMIEUX. It cannot be contended that Mr. Morgan is a political friend of the government.

Mr. MONK. He is a very strong political friend, a friend of the deepest dye. He is like many so called Conservatives, who have cleaved to the present government, ready to support it under any circumstances.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I know personally that Mr. Morgan was three times the Conservative candidate in the county of Richelieu.

Mr. MONK. And I remember a very hotly contested campaign we had in the city of Montreal in which Mr. Prefontaine.

a friend of the Postmaster General, was a candidate, and in that contest the Conservative Mr. Morgan was working for him for all he was worth. At that time Mr. Morgan had gone into the dredging business. I am speaking of facts that are admitted. In the province of Quebec when you find a man suddenly prosperous, you ask: has he got a dredging contract? It is notorious. We have Mr. Prendergast.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Has he made a fortune?

Mr. MONK. I do not know, but he lives well—much better than people who work hard.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Mr. Prendergast will tell you that there is not much money in dredging unless you have considerable experience.

Mr. MONK. They all say that, but the facts are there. They all seem to prosper. And outside of lawyers, whose occupation and technical knowledge would not lead them to dredging, there are coal merchants. It is extraordinary how coal merchants go in for dredging. In the province of Quebec we have Mr. Cowan and Moore & Company. My hon. friend the Postmaster General knows these people. They are coal merchants and they have found it advantageous to leave their occupation and go in for dredging; and although they always pretend there is nothing in it, they still tender and try to obtain the work, and having obtained it they seem to thrive considerably on the profits. As a rule—and I assert this on my responsibility as a member—the dredging is pooled in the province of Quebec. Tenders are sent in and it looks very regular, but when the work comes to be divided, some find they cannot attend to it here and others that they cannot attend to it there, and as a matter of fact the contract is divided up among them so that each is satisfied. We should abandon that old system of giving out dredging in order to distribute patronage, and have a policy dictated by the urgency of solving our transportation problem.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONK. I am glad to have my hon. friend's approval. I expected when he came into office that he would find somewhere, wherever it is to be found—I had a great deal of difficulty in finding it in the Department of Public Works—the valuable report of the transportation commission, and that he would see if it was not possible to put into execution the suggestion so well and so urgently made by that commission, and cast aside this system of doing odd-jobs here and there just to please political friends. Go to the province of Quebec, and you will find dredging done in the most impossible places at the greatest expense. It is a race among the friends of the gov-