

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is to cost \$3,500, and we expect to finish it with this vote.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is it by tender?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Probably, but I am not sure.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why is not the minister sure?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Where the amount is under \$5,000 and the resident engineer is of the opinion that the work can be done better and cheaper by day work we sometimes do it that way.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Has there been any report as to whether it is advisable to do it by tender or day work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Who judges that?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The chief engineer, subject to the decision of the minister.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. On what does the chief engineer make up his decision?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It would depend perhaps on the remoteness of the locality and the likelihood of persons wishing to tender.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is this a remote locality?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not very.

Mr. MICHAUD. It is quite a large manufacturing place.

Mr. PUGSLEY. There are a good many who are of opinion that where cribwork is to be done, if you get a good foreman who will look after the work and get good timber, you can do it better than by contract. Under the law we have not the same discretion where the work costs over \$5,000.

Mr. LENNOX. Are you guided by that?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, very largely.

Mr. LENNOX. Are there not a great many exceptions?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not a great many, quite a number. In case of emergency or in cases where it appears that work such as repairing an old wharf can be better done by day work, we do it.

Mr. LENNOX. There always have to be exceptional circumstances?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. LENNOX. That is what the minister says?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, I so interpret the Act.

Mr. LENNOX. The minister is guided by that, there must be exceptional circumstances or else the minister conforms to the Act?

Mr. PUGSLEY.

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is what the Act says.

Mr. LENNOX. I know what the Act says as well as the minister does, but I want to know what you do.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The minister is guided by, and conducts himself under, the Act.

Mr. LENNOX. As a matter of fact, unless exceptional circumstances justify departure from the Act, the minister is controlled by the Act?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, the minister would not think of violating the Act.

Mr. DANIEL. See him smile.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I have not heard anything so far which would lead me to believe that this work ought not to be done by tender.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am not aware that I can give any reason why it should not be done by tender in the usual course.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The minister says it is somewhat less expensive to do it by day work with a foreman or inspector; is it the foreman or the inspector the minister relies on?

Mr. PUGSLEY. We usually use the term 'foreman,' the words are interchangeable.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Was not a tailor once employed to superintend some public work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Which tailor?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I forget his name, but he was a tailor by occupation, and the scene was in New Brunswick.

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is a long time ago. Under the old Conservative government, there was a foreman who was an undertaker.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. His occupation would seem to fit him better for the job than if he were a tailor.

Mr. DANIEL. The leader of the opposition is referring to the building of the armoury in Sussex, where a tailor was put in command of the work.

Mr. PUGSLEY. My hon. friend (Mr. Daniel) ought not to butt in on this; how long ago was that?

Mr. DANIEL. Since this government has been in power.

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is a long time.

Mr. LENNOX. Altogether too long.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I think I have in mind the gentleman the hon. member refers to. He is a thoroughly good, practical man.