

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, it is in the interest of the traffic that is to be brought over by the Canadian Pacific railway.

Mr. SEXSMITH. What is the traffic created by, there is nobody living there

Mr. PUGSLEY. If the Canadian Pacific railway establishes large coal docks and makes that the point of transfer for the coal for that part of the country it must lead to the establishment of a town. That is the manner in which communities are being built up all over this country.

Mr. SEXSMITH. Is there not a large lumbering company interested chiefly in this dredging?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am not aware of that.

Mr. McCALL. It is fair to say that there is a large mill at Byng Inlet which would be served by the intention of the railway at that point to give a rail outlet as well as a water outlet.

Mr. S. SHARPE. Is the railway company the only interest that has asked for this expenditure?

Mr. SEXSMITH. So far as I recollect, yes.

Mr. BARKER. Does the minister believe that the railway company will not take its coal there for the purpose of its own operation unless the government gives that \$10,000?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am not prepared to say that, nor would I say that the company would not create a harbour at Victoria, but we have thought it not unreasonable that we should do our part in assisting them in their important work by doing the dredging, they undertaking at their own expense to build the docks. The operation of such works by a railway company gives employment to a large number of people, and I believe it is fairly within the duty of the federal government to do its part in the way of improvement, particularly in reference to navigation.

Mr. EDWARDS. If, as I understand, the minister feels that this appropriation is justified because of the benefit that will accrue, not only to the railway but to the people who are living there or will likely live there, I would urge on him the claims of the people of Wolfe Island to have some dredging done along the side of their dock. Some dredging was done at the end of the dock where the passenger steamers call, but a few hundred dollars' worth of dredging along the side of the dock would enable coal to be unloaded there and would save to the people from 60 cents to 70 cents a ton on their coal. Can the minister give me an assurance that an appropriation

will be put in the estimates this year for that work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The statement which my hon. friend makes does appeal to my judgment. I believe there is no better work the government can be engaged in than the deepening of navigable channels to enable vessels to get to wharfs and to enter rivers and so give to the people cheaper transportation. I will have the matter looked into by the chief engineer; it will not be necessary to have a special vote because that work can be done out of the general vote for dredging in Ontario.

Mr. EDWARDS. I brought this to the attention of the minister near the end of last session and I accepted in good faith the reasons then given by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Money was pretty scarce then.

Mr. EDWARDS. For the sake of the people of Wolfe Island I am glad it is more plentiful this year, and I hope the minister will see his way clear to expend this small amount.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I could not give my hon. friend the assurance that it will be done, but I will give him this assurance: I have asked the chief engineer to make a note of it to have it examined and see what the cost would be, and if it can be done for any thing like what my hon. friend has stated, I can assure him it will be done. It will be money well expended.

Mr. EDWARDS. Has the minister an estimate furnished by the reeve of Wolfe island as to the depth to be excavated, and as to the nature of the bottom along side of the dock?

Mr. PUGSLEY. We may have that in the department, I shall ascertain.

Mr. SAM. SHARPE. It seems to me there are objectionable features about this vote of \$30,000. It is a case of getting the cart before the horse. I could understand \$30,000 being spent in dredging where there are centres of population, but spending \$30,000 to attract population and build up centres of population strikes me as an extraordinary expenditure. It is serving no great interest, but serving the private interests of a corporation, which in the course of events, will have to make this expenditure on its own account. Surely it is an objectionable grant. Is the minister sure that this is serving the public interest, or is it the private interest of some dredging company that wanted work up there?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No dredging company made any suggestion of any kind in regard to it. The application for the grant