

and looks forward to an enormous increase of traffic from the west through that port.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. And Port Arthur as well?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. BLAIN. What ground has the minister for that statement?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I heard it recently from one of the most reliable citizens of Port Arthur whom I met in Ottawa, and from another whom I met in Toronto.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). The board of trade does not say so.

Mr. PUGSLEY. You cannot always rely upon what a board of trade may resolve.

Mr. BLAIN. Were these gentlemen interested in the dredging?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not at all, they were just interested in the prosperity of both cities.

Mr. DANIEL. Was this money owing to the contractor?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. DANIEL. Why was it not provided for last session?

Mr. PUGSLEY. We thought the vote taken last session would pay for all the work that could fairly be done during the year, but the contractors put on an additional large dredge and they got along more rapidly than we anticipated. I think they had 7 dredges on the work last season.

Mr. DANIEL. What are they paid per cubic yard?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I think it is eleven cents but I will make sure of that before we come to the main estimates.

Mr. CROCKET. To what depth is dredging being done?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Dredging is being done to a depth of 25 feet.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Who are the contractors?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The Great Lakes dredging company.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Last session I called the attention of the minister to a report that the scows carrying the material from the dredges were counted as being filled when they were only partially filled. Did the minister investigate that?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It does not follow that because a barge goes away partly filled it is returned as filled. The instructions to the resident engineers which are repeated to the inspectors, are, that they must be careful to estimate as accurately as possible the quantity contained in the barges. My hon. friend will see from the return that

Mr. PUGSLEY.

some of these barges are returned as carrying away less than their capacity. We have placed the work of dredging more especially under the care of Mr. Dufresne, assistant chief engineer, who has been a long time in the department, and in whom we have the greatest possible confidence.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. The statement was made that many of these barges carried away only a few yards of material dumped in the bottom, and that the men who had charge of checking the quantities were receiving very small wages and might be influenced. I now understand from the minister that he has made no investigation whatever.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Was not my hon. friend to give me some details?

Mr. ARMSTRONG. No.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Then it would be impossible for me to investigate as to the past, but I have taken precautions as to the future. I do not think my hon. friend gave any evidence that barges which went away not fully loaded were returned as such.

Mr. CROCKET. The minister could have made inquiry from his inspectors.

Mr. PUGSLEY. If the inspectors were guilty they would not be likely to confess it. We have taken every possible precaution when scow measurement is allowed for. We have compelled the inspectors to be constantly on the work and to make a solemn declaration that they have been. We require the engineers to give them complete instructions as to the mode of measurement, and the resident engineer or his assistant are pretty constantly about the work, too.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What salary do you pay the inspectors?

Mr. PUGSLEY. At Port Arthur and Fort William we pay \$4 per day. That is considerably more than we pay in the east. West of the Great Lakes we have to pay higher wages.

Mr. CROCKET. Did the minister not call the attention of the resident engineer to the statement made by the hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Armstrong)?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I do not recollect doing so, but when we come to the main estimates, I will get that information. My hon. friend will remember that it was only a rumour, on hearsay. He did not give the name.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. It was a rumour, but I got it from a reliable source.

Mr. HENDERSON. I understood the minister to say that the Great Lakes Dredging Company had been more expeditious with their work than he had antici-