

work if it would cost so much. I hope, in view of the estimates that have been given to us by Mr. Kutian, that the new survey will make it clear that these improvements can be made for a smaller amount. The hon. gentleman and his constituents may rely on this that, if it is possible to make the improvements at a cost at all proportionate to the benefits that will accrue to the people of Winnipeg, the Government will certainly undertake the work as soon as the finances of the country will enable us to do so, which I hope will be very soon.

Mr. DALY. Mr. Speaker, I desire to make a few remarks on this motion, particularly in view of the fact that the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Martin) gratuitously cast a sneer at the Premier and myself in reference to a deputation that waited upon us in Winnipeg last September, when we were on our way east. The hon. gentleman stated that the Premier was disrespectful to the very important delegation that waited upon us in reference to this scheme, likening their request to the Indian pow-wows we held with delegations of the Indians whom we met during our trip. Now, I can say that any remark made by the Premier at that time in reference to the Indians, was made entirely in badinage, the Premier so stated, and it could not be taken seriously by any person who understands that hon. gentleman. So far as I am concerned, all I have to say is that I leave myself in the hands of the citizens of Winnipeg who were present on that occasion; and if the applause I received on taking my seat after the few remarks I made was any indication of the feeling of those present, it seemed to me that they were well satisfied with what I had said. One would think, from the manner in which the hon. gentleman has spread himself to-night, that this was the first occasion on which this matter was brought before the House, and that he and he alone had ever advocated these improvements before the Government.

Mr. MARTIN. On the contrary, I expressly said I was not.

Mr. DALY. Instead of that, I want the hon. gentleman to understand that his predecessor, Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, and his predecessor, and other Manitoba members, brought this matter up repeatedly, session after session.

Mr. MARTIN. I so stated.

Mr. DALY. They were just as much impressed with the importance and necessity of this work as the hon. gentleman; and I have only to say to the hon. gentleman and the citizens of Winnipeg that no doubt the persistent work done by Mr. Scarth, Mr. Macdonald, and other members from Manitoba supporting the Government, will eventuate very shortly in something material being done towards carrying out the long-deferred

wishes of the people of Winnipeg in reference to the improvement of the navigation of Red River. As stated by the hon. Minister of Public Works, the one thing that has kept the Government from expending the money has been the large amount that the work was estimated to cost. Every deputation that went to meet the Minister of Public Works and other members of the Government in reference to it, since 1887, was met by that one statement, that, according to the engineers of the department, the work would cost from \$900,000 to \$1,900,000. Since that time, as stated by the hon. member for Winnipeg, the city engineer of Winnipeg, Colonel Ruttan, has made a careful survey of the river, and he estimates the total cost of the work at \$500,000. That report has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Public Works, and it is announced by him that another survey will be made by the officers of his department. I hope sincerely that the matter will receive the earnest and immediate attention of the Government, because there is no doubt that the people of Winnipeg, and the people of a large portion of the country tributary to Winnipeg, are considerably handicapped by the want of through navigation on the Red River, connecting with Lake Winnipeg, with its immense fishery resources, the great growth of timber around its shores, and its many miles of coast. The improvement of St. Andrew's Rapids, and the opening up of this communication, would mean a large increase of trade to the city of Winnipeg. I trust that it will not be long before the engineers will be on the ground, and the people of Winnipeg will realize, not because an election is near, but because the representations made through their civic bodies, and by the representatives of Manitoba supporting this Government, will induce the Government to make the necessary improvements in the navigation of Red River secure.

Mr. MARTIN. In reference to the remarks I made about the interview between Sir Mackenzie Bowell and my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior, and the deputation in Winnipeg, all I can say is that no matter what the spirit the Premier put forward, his suggestion that it was another Indian pow-wow, for which they had intercepted him on his way to Ottawa, the people of that deputation certainly did not take it in that spirit. There was in the city a good deal of feeling that the Premier of Canada had not treated them in a proper way. I myself was not present at the delegation, but what I say here I have heard from a great many people who were there, notably from those who belonged to the party of the Government. They were probably more offended than the Liberals, because the Liberals, perhaps, did not expect that the Government would treat them with respect in the matter; but the Conservatives did, and I can say that they were deeply offended, not only with the language of the Premier.