

and manufactured products out. As the result of the representations made by that delegation, the then minister had the suction dredge 'Northumberland' built and it has been working there ever since and has done splendid work. One of the difficulties experienced in government dredging in the maritime provinces is the expense of carrying away the dredged material to deep water, but the construction of the 'Northumberland' obviated this expense, and she is probably the best investment in dredges that the government has ever made. A large amount of dredging has been done by the 'Northumberland' during the last three years and the late minister had in contemplation the continuance of the operations by the removal of rock in a narrow part of the river. The late minister placed in the estimates last year a preliminary vote of \$25,000 to let a contract for the removal of the rock which cannot be removed by the dredge. That vote, unfortunately, has not been repeated in the main estimates. I would say to the minister that of all the expenditures which are being made in the maritime provinces none will open up greater commercial possibilities than the completion of this work. I know that the attention of the minister has been already called to the matter, and with the same emphasis that I pressed the matter on the attention of the late government I press it on his attention now. The completion of this work will be of immense advantage to the industrial community there and incidentally to the whole country. Before the supplementary estimates are brought down I hope the minister will familiarize himself with the details and if he does I have no doubt he will place a vote in the estimates for the prosecution of this work to completion.

Mr. MONK. I have given some consideration to the completion of this work on the East river and it commends itself favourably to me. The channel needs deepening and straightening for seven miles, four miles of which has been already done and in the expectation of its completion large industries have been erected at Trenton about a mile and a-half from where the present work ends. I think the whole work when fully completed will cost considerably over \$300,000. I have a great desire to continue the work this year, at any rate as far as Trenton. The dredge has been constructed specially for that purpose, but she cannot of course do the rock-work, and that will entail an expenditure of \$25,000 or more. The work is a necessary one. I will endeavour to have it continued this year if possible, at any rate for that mile and a half which

would enable vessels to go to Trenton. I will do my best in that regard.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Antigonish). There is an important matter to which I wish to call the attention of the hon. the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Monk). I refer to the dredging of Antigonish harbour. Instructions were given a year ago or more to have a survey made of that harbour. I am not sure whether the local engineer's report has been received by the department. It had not, a very short time ago. I may say, however, that I received a report from the Department of Mines a few days ago, and read therein a very interesting statement from Mr. Jameson, an engineer of Nova Scotia, concerning the immense deposits of gypsum at the mouth of the Lower South river and along the north side of Antigonish harbour. For this gypsum there is a ready market in the United States and in Canada. And all that is necessary to ensure the development of these deposits is to have the harbour dredged. The development of this industry is prevented because the railway freight rates are too high if the gypsum has to be shipped from Antigonish or South River to Mulgrave by the I.C.R. and then by steamer from the Straits of Canso. Mr. Jameson pointed out that if Antigonish harbour were dredged, this property, which is very valuable and for which there are good prospects of development if facilities were given for shipping, would mean the establishment of an industry of great benefit to that locality. I call attention to this so that the minister may, when the report comes in from his engineer, make some provision for the dredging. No doubt he will be making up his dredging estimates in a short time, and I would draw his attention to this work in particular. I desire to also ask the hon. minister if he has brought down the papers in connection with the dismissal of Captain Decoste, which were ordered by this House a fortnight ago?

Mr. MONK. I brought those papers down to-day. As regards the harbour at Antigonish, I shall give my hon. friend's observations every possible consideration. The demands for public works are of course very great, and it is difficult to satisfy them all, however reasonable they be. The estimates for dredging are very considerable, and the government would not be justified in granting all the demands until we have occasion to go into the organization of our dredging and see what improvements can be made, but I shall give careful consideration to my hon. friend's request.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I am very much obliged to the hon. minister for the informa-