

which is involved in the item before the Chair.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I understood the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Owen) to the effect that last year when some items for another province were under consideration, he rose to speak with reference to an Ontario item, and he was shut off on the ground that the discussion was to be confined to the item under consideration. I think it is better that that rule should be observed. I will say to the hon. member for York (Mr. Crocket) that he will not be precluded from an opportunity of discussing dredging in the maritime provinces, because there will be a vote for dredging in the maritime provinces.

Mr. EDWARDS. As a representative from Ontario, I feel that the Richibucto wharf matter is one that interests us, because the Ontario members desire that the money on all these wharfs shall not be wasted.

Mr. CROCKET. On August 4, 1908, the chief engineer of Public Works had telegraphed to the resident engineer—

Mr. CARVELL. I rise to a point of order. If the hon. member for York is going to be allowed to discuss this matter, let us know. He has been ruled against twice. I would like now a positive ruling from the Chair, as to whether the member for York is going to obey the Chair.

Mr. SPROULE. When a subject like dredging is under consideration is it not competent for any member of this House to give a history of any transaction in the same department, or under the same government? He must give a history of a transaction in order to make a comparison, and is he not within his rights in making a comparison with regard to what has been done elsewhere? I would like a ruling of the Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I think I have expressed the rule with regard to such matters. The discussion on the item before the House should naturally be confined to the St. Lawrence itself, and the improvements between Brockville and Kingston. It is proper, however, by way of illustration, either of the work of the department or a work of a similar kind, dredging for instance, to quote other items of work that have been done by the department. But to quote these it is necessary that the argument should be applied from them to the item before the Chair. It then comes to be a matter of judgment with the Chairman whether the hon. member is doing that. If it appears to the Chairman that he is merely discussing this other item for the sake of deciding whether it is well done in itself, or for any

Mr. CROCKET.

other purpose than to apply it to the item before the Chair, then the Chairman would rule him out of order. Until the argument has proceeded a certain distance it is not possible to know whether the discussion is out of order or not. I am not in a position to rule as out of order a reference to Gaspereau the moment the hon. gentleman mentions the name. His argument must proceed a certain distance before I am able to judge whether he is discussing that merely for itself, or to apply it to the item before the Chair. I may ask the hon. gentleman, however, if he touches on any other item than that before the Chair, to apply his argument as rapidly and clearly as possible to this item. Otherwise I will be forced to rule him out of order.

Mr. CROCKET. I was referring to a statement the minister made with reference to the terms of the contract that was entered into with the Maritime Dredging Company, and I wanted to prove to the House that the minister's statement was incorrect.

Mr. CARVELL. What has that to do with the question under discussion? I want a decision.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. In that case I will have to decide that such a discussion is out of order. The minister himself was ruled out of order for prolonging an irrelevant discussion on the possibility of executing some other class of work. The item before the Chair is the St. Lawrence, Brockville item.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. I want to inquire from the minister who this contract was sublet to? Mr. Gilbert was the contractor.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am not aware of any contract being sublet. One was assigned to Mr. E. G. Evans.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. At what price?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It was \$3.95 per cubic yard. It is marine blasting, to the depth of sixteen feet under water.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. It is merely blowing an island out. You have to blow the top off, and that is all they have done.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Tenders were called for, and there was a large number received, and this was the lowest, at \$3.95.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. How much has Gilbert been paid on his contract, and how much work has he done?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The expenditure to the 1st of January was \$8,253. It has been paid over on certificates of the engineer.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. How much work has been done?

Mr. PUGSLEY. About 2,000 cubic yards.