

being highly improper and as specimens of how the whole of the road money was expended, saying on one occasion that 90 per cent. of the money went to the road bosses and only 10 per cent. to the working men. Let us see how wild and unfair the statement is. With respect to the proportion of the moneys going to the overseers and laborers in the year just closed, it cost less than 10 per cent. of the whole expenditure to oversee it, and 90 per cent. went to the laboring men, the very opposite of what the leader of the Opposition stated as being the case. As to the overseers, the criticisms were confined largely to the case of one man, Mr. Wickett. This overseer resides in the district of Parry Sound. He is a man of energy and skill, and an expert hewer and framer and a first-class mechanic. When a bridge is to be repaired or replaced, he proceeds to the spot, sees what timber, iron and other materials are required, and advises the Department. Then he proceeds to get out the timber or make contracts for the sawing of it. Then he has to inspect it, measure it and take it over, and all this before there is any necessity for engaging a man to assist him. If he has to take the timber out of the bush he engages a few men to chop it down while he himself hews it. When he has it all on the ground, with one or two men he frames it, and when he has the timbers all ready to put together he engages the required number of men to erect the bridge. Perhaps the gentlemen of the Opposition do not understand this but any farmer who has built a barn will understand it, for the process is the same.

The particular case most dwelt upon by Mr. Whitney and his followers is that of the Musqueosh bridge, and it may be taken as a typical case. In Hamilton Mr. Whitney put the charge as follows: "Musqueosh bridge, pay of overseer, July 23rd to September 6th, both days inclusive, 49 days at \$3.50, total \$171.50; amount of pay list \$92.93." The inference which he tried to force his hearers to draw was that it cost \$171.50 to oversee the expenditure of \$92.93. Now, what are the facts? This particular bridge was erected by contract a great number of years ago, and cost \$1,500. In 1890 it became necessary to replace it, as it was in a dangerous condition. Mr. Wickett was selected to rebuild it, and came to Toronto to consult with the Superintendent of Roads as to the character of the bridge, and other matters. This being decided, he had to prepare the specifications of the timber, make lists of the other materials required, and plan out the work. He advised that considerable expenditure could be saved if certain bolts, rods and other irons which had been taken out of another bridge were used, and he was instructed to go and select such iron as could be economically used. He did so,