

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** I do not know whether I will build that dredge by day's work or by contract. We have one dredge that has been built by contract which does not give much satisfaction, and we have been obliged to make a lot of repairs.

Mr. **HUGHES.** When the hon. gentlemen now in power were in Opposition, they were very strict in requiring that all these jobs should be done by tender, but now that they are in power, they seem to have changed their policy. I would like the Minister to see his way clear to ask for tenders so that others than his friends might have something to say in the construction of this dredge.

Dredge vessels, repairs..... \$30,000

Mr. **FOSTER.** Is that all done in Sorel, too ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** Yes.

Mr. **GILLIES.** The hon. gentleman told us that there was a scarcity of dredges in the lower provinces, and that he could not do one tithe of the work required. I would like to know if he proposes to have any dredges constructed for those provinces ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** We have several dredges in the maritime provinces ; we have the " St. Lawrence," the " Canada," the " New Dominion," the " St. Edward," the " George Mackenzie " and the " Cape Breton." I admit that there is a great deal of dredging required in the lower provinces.

Mr. **GILLIES.** The dredges he has just enumerated have been in the possession of the department for years.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** The hon. gentleman is wrong. The " Cape Breton " was built one year ago.

Mr. **GILLIES.** But that was begun before he came into the department, and sent down to St. John. That dredge was built to replace a dredge lost a year ago in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, so the department is not one dredge better off as regards the lower provinces than it was formerly. The coast line of the maritime provinces, extending from the Bay of Fundy to Baie des Chaleurs, is many hundreds of miles in extent, and no comparison can be made between that coast and the inland waters of the other provinces. In view of the fact that there was urgent necessity for dredging in the maritime provinces, I cannot see what justification the Minister can have for not asking votes for the construction of new dredges to be used there, while at the same time large votes were asked for other parts of the Dominion.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** I have explained that large sums are re-

quired for repairs to dredges in the maritime provinces and elsewhere.

Mr. **BERGERON.** Where is the line of demarcation to be drawn between new dredges and repairs ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** I have applied for \$60,000 for new work and \$30,000 for repairs.

Mr. **BERGERON.** Then this amount of \$30,000 is to be given for work to be done at Sorel ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** No. It is partly for work to be done at Sorel in the shape of rebuilding scows and other work, and partly for repairing dredges in the maritime provinces, and also for making some repairs in Ontario.

Dredging—Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick..... \$60,000

Mr. **McDOUGALL.** Where does the Minister propose to expend this amount in the maritime provinces ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** The dredge " St. Lawrence " is working at Yarmouth. There is certain work to be completed, which will take a few weeks. The dredge " Canada " is at Barrington, and will go from there to some other point. The " New Dominion " will dredge in the St. John River. The dredge " Mackenzie " now at Wallace will go to Arichat. The " Cape Breton " will work in St. John harbour.

Mr. **McDOUGALL.** We are now discussing expenditures for the current year. On what work does the hon. gentleman propose to spend this amount, after 1st July ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** We estimate that \$60,000 will be necessary to keep the dredges working during the whole year. As to localities, we have not made up our minds altogether, but I have stated some localities where the dredges are at work.

Mr. **McDOUGALL.** Surely the hon. gentleman does not base his estimate on the necessity of keeping the dredges working, but on the necessity of certain work being done. I want to know the works on which the dredges will be employed.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** It is quite impossible to give the exact quantity of work required to be done at certain places ; but it has been estimated by the local engineers, that this sum will be required to keep the dredges at work during the season. As to work, there is plenty to be done.

Mr. **McDOUGALL.** I think it has been customary for the Minister to state the particular places where work will be done during the year.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** I have already given the names of some of