

from Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot) that I fully recognize the importance of the matter which he has brought to the attention of the House. In view of the great necessity and urgency there is for dredging below the city of Quebec, I cannot understand how it is that they have not had a better dredging plant there. I realize that nothing will so check the development of the resources of the country as lack of shipping facilities in the various harbours; and recognizing that, we have put a vote of \$75,000 in the estimates to enable us to build or purchase a dredge to be used below Quebec. Now, as to the remarks of my hon. friend from Inverness (Mr. McLennan) I can assure him that with such plants as we have at our disposal, it is the intention to go on with that work to which he has referred.

Mr. REID (Grenville). The government works are now completed on the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Kingston, and there will be more or less dredging required there. Is it the intention of the government to put a dredge on that section?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We have some dredges on that stretch of the river now, and wherever we can hire a dredge we are doing so to carry on some of the most urgent work. I think I have been able to hire a dredge in the last day or two to work in the hon. gentleman's constituency, so that ships may enter the harbour and go up to the wharf. There has been a great demand from merchants and shippers in that district, and I believe I have now been successful in meeting their wants.

Mr. REID (Grenville). In looking up what the government has been paying for some of these dredges, I fully agree what has been said, that it would be much cheaper and in the interests of the country, if the government had a good dredge of its own rather than to engage at exorbitant prices some of these small dredges that are practically worn out.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I misunderstood the hon. gentleman (Mr. Reid). The new dredge for use in Ontario will, I hope, be completed and be working during the next month or so.

Mr. LAW. I do not feel that I would be doing my duty to the constituency I have the honour to represent, if I did not avail myself of this opportunity to call the attention of the Minister of Public Works to the urgent necessity for dredging in the county of Yarmouth. Anybody who has visited the town from which I come, knows that we are handicapped to a very great extent in our harbour facilities. It is true that the government has favoured us with a dredge for two or three seasons, but the work is incomplete and consequently not much good has resulted from it. The government had plans made of the harbour a year or two

ago, and if the government would give us for one other season such a dredge as the new one which is being built, I have no doubt that the plans made by the resident engineer could be fully carried out, and it would be a very great convenience for the county of Yarmouth. We are the stepping stone as it were between the United States and the maritime provinces. We have one or two boats a day coming in there from Boston, carrying a very large number of passengers who are distributed over all parts of Nova Scotia. Our harbour is nothing but a zig-zag channel, and it is almost impossible for steamers to get in or out during foggy weather or in the dark. While I am on my feet, I would like to say in reference to the remarks of my hon. friend (Mr. German) about the government selling its dredges and getting the work done by contract; that I do not agree with him at all. I cannot see why the government is not in a position to do the dredging as cheaply as any contractor can do it, and more cheaply. The dredges which contractors would buy and work would get old, just like the government dredges. I can only speak of the dredge 'Canada' which we had in Yarmouth for a few seasons. I doubt if any contractors on earth could do better work than was done by that dredge for her capacity. She worked late and early, and did good work. I hope parliament, instead of curtailing this vote, will see its way to vote larger sums for dredging throughout the whole country, especially in the maritime provinces. No money that parliament votes does more good than the money voted for dredging purposes.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works has just said that he cannot understand why no dredging plant has been used below Quebec. When he has been a little longer in the important position he occupies, he will understand readily. There is a high tide below Quebec which allows the largest ships to reach the inner St. Lawrence. When we took office, there was really not one dredge available for work done there. It was solid rock that had to be excavated.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. Solid rock at Chenal Beaujeu?

Hon. Mr. TARTE. At Crane Island it is solid rock.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. The department has heretofore represented differently, that it is sand.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. No.

Mr. TALBOT. Have any soundings been taken by the Department of Public Works at Crane Island? If soundings have been taken, the report must be that there are several feet of sand on the top of the rock.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. But there is solid rock at the bottom.