

with whom to enter into a contract. If I am correctly informed, the parties who owned the dredging plant were obliged to part with it for whatever they could get, because the Government would not give them work, and that work was given to others, represented by whom? By Judge Barron, who was appointed under this Government, and Dr. Horsey, the defeated candidate for North Grey. And then it was said: There is no use in making an application unless the party who makes it is recommended by the member for the riding or some other prominent Reformer who satisfies the Minister of Public Works that he is a suitable party to do it. What would that mean? It would mean that no Conservative could be recommended, and that a Reformer would get the contract whether he had a plant or not. So the parties who owned this plant were obliged to part with it for what they could get, because they could not get work under the Government. I am informed that the same thing happens in Toronto where a contract is given to a painter who has no dredge and by whom the work is farmed out, while the parties who have the dredges cannot get the work to do. I would not object that a Reformer should be chosen in preference to a Conservative, other things being equal, but I do object to the choice being made as it has been made.

Mr. KAULBACH. I desire to inform the Minister of Public Works that I think his memory is a little defective—he will pardon me for saying so. Last year I made an application, and the year before that, and the year before that, and I do not know for how many years previous to that, for a dredge to be sent to the harbour of Lunenburg and two other points in my county, the La Have River and Mahone Bay. These places need dredging very much indeed. The harbour of Lunenburg particularly needs it. And I venture to say—and I challenge contradiction—that there is no harbour of equal importance so much in need of dredging as the harbour of Lunenburg. We have belonging to that harbour alone over 100 vessels, and, belonging to the county, we have upwards of 300, and a finer class of vessels cannot be found. But very often shipping is prevented from coming to said harbour of Lunenburg because of the lack of sufficient depth of water. Now, I think I am not making an unreasonable request when I ask the Minister to remember the applications I have made and now repeat by way of reminders. I think that the Minister will surely not fail to give us the use of the dredge this season. I think I am safe in saying that Yarmouth has the use of a dredge every year. That harbour might be in a position to claim the dredge on the principle of possession being nine points of the law. My hon. friend from Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), I think, will endorse my views in every particular.

Mr. SPROULE.

There is not a port, outside of Halifax that has a larger quantity of shipping or a larger number of vessels or more urgently needs the service of the dredge than Lunenburg. I hope the hon. Minister will not look upon my appeal otherwise than as an honest one, that he will not look upon it with political feeling—I know that does not actuate him as far as I myself am concerned, at least I venture to assume that, and I think I am right in saying so. I trust he will grant the request I reasonably make which he will see is simple justice.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Kaulbach) knows me well enough, I am sure, to know that my memory is not short. But I may tell him to remember that dredges are short. In Nova Scotia I have only three dredges, and I have here a list of twenty-five places requiring dredges.

An hon. MEMBER. Get more dredges.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. But when I ask for money for more dredges, hon. gentlemen find fault with me for that.

Mr. FOSTER. Maybe Mr. Phin has two or three more dredges.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. He supplies good dredges.

Mr. FOSTER. They usually keep them on hand in tailor's shops, you know.

Mr. KAULBACH. I think I have the floor, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bain). I would remind the hon. gentleman (Mr. Kaulbach) that this is an item for Toronto harbour.

Mr. WALLACE. We have heard from the hon. Minister of Public Works that it does not make any difference who comes along and wants work, the only qualification for getting it is that he must be a good Reformer. I think the Minister of Public Works might recollect for a moment that he is the servant of the people of Canada and not their master just yet. Though they may have seemed to endorse the policy that business is business, but they will have a reckoning with these gentlemen before very long. What are the facts? Last year the Minister of Public Works had a dredge at work that he said was doing effective work. They paid \$8 per hour. They could have engaged an equally good dredge at \$6 per hour. Did they do so? No, Sir, they gave the contract to this Mr. Phin, who has no dredge, agreeing to pay him \$8 per hour. Why not adopt the principle that should be adopted in all public works, of letting out this work by tender and contract? If the Government can get the work done at \$6 or \$5 per hour, why should they not take advantage of these prices. But, no, Sir, Mr. Phin is a valuable member of the party and subscribed liberal-