

derstanding in the department. The officers of the department inform me that they had reported to the minister that they could not expect to have the dredge finished this year. There has been no change, so far as I know, or any action taken that might cause delay, so far as I am personally concerned. And so far as I know, regarding the officers of the department, they have been urging the progress of the work in every way. From the first I was informed that it was not possible to complete it this year.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. It is out of the question to tell that to me, as I happened to be there a month before I left office. There is correspondence in the Department of Public Works—my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Sutherland) will find it—to the effect that the dredge was to be ready by the month of July, and it should have been ready by that time. There is no reason, unless the work has not been proceeded with with the celerity and activity which should have been displayed, why the dredge should not have been ready by the first of July. The hull was very far advanced, the material was nearly all delivered, and I cannot understand why the dredge will not be ready by the first of July. I invite my hon. friend to look personally into that matter, because I know how difficult it is to administer patronage in Sorel. I do not know what changes my hon. friend has made in the way of distributing patronage there. I had any amount of trouble when I was in office. Although I was born near there, although I know nearly everybody there, I had any amount of trouble, and I was obliged to act in a pretty stiff manner at times. I do not know who is managing the Sorel patronage now, or in whose hands it is, but I know very well that without strict supervision it is a very easy thing in Sorel to employ three men instead of one. I invite the minister to be careful. His officers will tell him, if he takes them into his confidence, something about that. The shipyard in Sorel is one of the best on the continent, but of course it has to be administered according to strict business methods. If there is not strict supervision exercised, it will be a sink hole. I again invite the minister to be very careful as to the way patronage is to be administered there. I make these remarks because I do not want to be responsible for the delay. The officers of the department know that I am within the truth when I say that that dredge should have been ready by the first of July, or at the outside by the first of August. I cannot understand the reason for that delay.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. In view of the statements made by the hon. gentleman on previous occasions, and in view of the urgent necessity of having a dredge in the lower provinces I did look into this matter. I may say to the hon. gentleman that he will be fully responsible

for the conduct of the department, for the reason that there has been no change made at Ottawa and neither has there been any change made at Sorel. The supervision is the same now as it was before. If there is any correspondence in the department to which he refers between any of the officials, I wish he would give me the names because I am giving the information to the House and to him as it is given to me by the chief officers of the department. There has been no change made whatever; no change in the instructions; no change in the supervision, and so far as I am personally concerned any action that I have taken and any intimation I have given has been in the direction of urging that all speed be made towards carrying out this work. I have no information from any of the officers of the department or from any source, that there has been any change made whatever. The only personal action I took was to urge on the officers the necessity of having this dredge completed as quickly as possible.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. Might I inquire whether the whole work will be done in Sorel or if part of the work will be done outside.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I was so anxious that this work should be completed this year if possible, that I consulted the engineers of the department to see whether or not some assistance could not be had from outside. After full consideration they reported to me that the work had gone so far and was in such a state of progress, that they did not think we could get a great deal of assistance by having any of the work done outside. It was decided on their recommendation to go on and try to complete the work as quickly as possible in the shops at Sorel.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. Would the hon. gentleman be good enough to tell me what are the reasons why the dredge is not ready now; what part of the work is behind; is it the hull or the machinery.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Generally speaking it is both. Some of the machinery has been bought and delivered but the building of the hull, &c., is not far enough advanced to use the machinery that has been delivered. There has been delay in regard to all parts of the dredge.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. If my hon. friend will look again himself into that matter from a business standpoint—let me say immediately, not from a political standpoint exclusively—he will find out that why the dredge is not ready is because there have been changes in the way of administering patronage in Sorel. I take it upon myself to say that.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. If the hon. gentleman has any information with regard to changes I wish he would give it to me, because, not with my know-