

the service of the department, in the expenditure of money on behalf of this country, so long as that charge remains against him. I say it is a most improper thing; no official of a corporation would dare to continue such a man in such a position; he would suspend the man until he had investigated the charge to the bottom.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I do not at all complain of the spirit in which my hon. friend has addressed the committee. I quite agree with him that when a member of this House states that the evidence before the committee shows that a foreman has been guilty of improper conduct, it is the duty of the minister to investigate the matter, to go through the evidence carefully, to weigh it, and if the evidence shows any improper conduct on the part of the foreman, then it is the duty of the minister not to retain him. That is the very course I intend to pursue.

Mr. BARKER. I intended to say that it was the minister's duty to suspend this man until the charge has been investigated.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I may say that that man is no longer in the employ of the government, he ceased to be employed at the close of the season. I shall feel it my duty to do exactly what my hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Barker) suggests. But I am not prepared to-night, simply upon the ipse dixit of any member of this House—I will not say, least of all, of my hon. friend from York (Mr. Crocket), it would not be courteous to say that—but I am not prepared, until I read the evidence and have an opportunity of judging for myself, to pass judgment against any man who has been in the employ of the department. But as I have said, Mr. Murray is no longer in the employ of the government, and before we make a new appointment I should feel it my duty to investigate very carefully the evidence, and then determine as to whether he has been guilty of improper conduct; and if there is a shadow of suspicion against him, I shall feel it my duty not to re-employ him.

Mr. CROCKET. The minister has not, up to the present time, read the evidence taken before the committee.

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, I have not.

Mr. CROCKET. I am satisfied that if the minister reads this evidence which I have in my hand now, and applies a fair unbiased judgment to that evidence, he will not assume the responsibility of retaining, Mr. Thomas Murray in this position any longer. I do think that there ought to be not only a dismissal, but it is very questionable to my mind if some criminal proceedings should not be taken in

Mr. BARKER.

such a matter as this. If the employees of the government are to be allowed to perpetrate criminal offences, and I say here that Mr. Murray did obtain money from the government under false pretenses, with impunity, the public cannot be expected to have much confidence in the honest administration of their officers. I have made this statement to-night solely for the purpose of drawing the minister's attention to it so that he will understand that he will have to take the responsibility if Mr. Murray is longer continued as foreman of this work.

Richibucto harbour—breakwater—piers on north and south sides, \$9,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is an amount required to complete the extension of a section of 140 feet of the north breakwater begun in 1908, and also to complete the first 200 feet of the south breakwater. We are building two breakwaters, upon the north side and one upon the south side. This amount of \$9,000 will not complete the whole work but it is expected that it will complete these sections.

Mr. CROCKET. How much additional will it take to complete it?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It depends upon the extent to which the breakwater is carried. If it is carried out as far as it is recommended that we should go the cost will reach about \$58,000. That is to do a thoroughly complete job, but we do not propose to do anything like that in the immediate future.

Mr. CROCKET. Has the department any plans of the work proposed?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, but it is proceeding by sections.

Mr. CROCKET. Is that part of the Jardine contract?

Mr. PUGSLEY. This was a work done by Mr. Jardine.

Mr. CROCKET. The Jardine contract is still running?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, his contract is completed.

Mr. CROCKET. Who is doing this work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. We will let a new contract for this work.

Mr. CROCKET. When was the Jardine contract completed?

Mr. PUGSLEY. August, 1908.

Mr. CROCKET. How much was paid under the Jardine contract?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The contract was \$17,000, and I think it was all paid—I am not sure as to that.