

Mr. BERGERON. Is there any amount for dredging at Berthier ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. There is a special vote for that.

Mr. BERGERON. And also, I suppose, a special vote for dredging the St. Lawrence channel. This amount then is for the nine dredges working in Ontario and Quebec ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. And to pay for some dredges that are hired.

Mr. BERGERON. But the Minister is simply following the custom adopted and followed by the old Government.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have made it my duty to take everything that was good wherever it came from.

Mr. BERGERON. And the Minister is spending more money than the late Government did.

Mr. SPROULE. As I figure out the wages account it would amount to less than \$20 a day. What is the cost of fuel ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I cannot say just now.

Mr. SPROULE. Do those dredges use wood or coal ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. All of them burn coal.

Mr. SPROULE. Can the Minister tell us what is the cost of the coal ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I do not know I never measured it.

Mr. SPROULE. I did not ask that, nor do I expect the Minister can give the information at a moment's notice, but I presume he can get the information from his officers, and the House should know it. My information is, and I believe it to be correct, that if costs between \$20 and \$30 a day to keep these dredges going. I take it that the cost of repairs is not included in this item, and that this is for paying the wages and cost of fuel and such things. We should have the information in detail about these things.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Before concurrence I will give the details of the expenditure of each dredge.

Mr. SPROULE. That will be perfectly satisfactory, so far as I am concerned.

Mr. QUINN. Will the Minister give us some details as to where the dredges will work during the coming year ? We do not ask that the Minister shall be bound down by the letter of his statement and be held responsible next season for the dredges not working as he would indicate, but we should know where it is contemplated that the dredges shall work.

Mr. TARTE.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I could not locate where we would work all the dredges now.

Mr. QUINN. We know there has not been anything like the quantity of dredging done in Quebec province that has been asked for, and I suppose it is the same in other provinces. If the department is properly conducted, the Minister must have some information from his officers as to what points it is contemplated to work the dredges next year. That is what we want to get.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Did I understand the Minister to say that while the dredges were not dredging the crews were doing the repairs ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Everything that can be done by the captain or crew is done, but not the whole thing ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. Are not the crews on these dredges at the present time.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I understand that only a portion of the crews are engaged now. My instructions were that the crew should not be employed until the work is begun.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Would the Minister say what repairs have been done by the men ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am told by the Deputy Minister that small repairs are done by the men. My hon. friends opposite are doing me a great service in criticising all these details so closely. I will go deeply into the matter now and if the chief engineer of my department has not kept things as he should, I will know why it is.

Mr. MONTAGUE. According to the Auditor General's Report there is \$600 charged for carpenters and caulkers, and evidently the crews did not do those repairs.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I suppose they did not. I promise my hon. friends that I will have the closest inquiry made into the working expenses of these dredges. It is not very long since I took office and I have to rely on the advice of the officers I found there. My hon. friends opposite seem to think there have been some abuses because they would not criticise all these items so severely if they did not think there were abuses.

Mr. MONTAGUE. As far as I am concerned I am not criticising the officers of the department.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The hon. gentleman cannot be criticising me, because I do not do it.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. Minister is not immaculate.