

during the past winter, and would have been only too glad to undertake the construction of this tug.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I gave that figure because one of my officers has given it to me, but it may cost less. The hull is nearly completed now.

Mr. HUGHES. By what authority does the Minister complete the hull without getting a vote from this Parliament for the purpose?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I got a vote last year for the hull; I do not ask for anything for the hull now. I am only asking \$3,500 for a new boiler.

Mr. MONTAGUE. If the hull of the tug has been built, the hon. gentleman can tell us what it has cost.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No, because it has been built by day's labour.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Does the hon. gentleman do his business in such a way that he cannot tell what an article costs?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The hon. gentleman has been a Minister himself, and he knows well that it often happens that no one can tell how much a certain work will cost.

Mr. MONTAGUE. In connection with these articles that are built there, does the department keep an estimate of what each article costs? Is the work done and the article charged up to it?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The work is done under the direction of Mr. Howden, who is the superintendent, while it is under the general direction of the chief engineer. We can give an account of every cent that is spent there.

Mr. BERGERON. Speaking about the yard in Sorel, has the Minister come to any arrangement with the McCarthy estate?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No, I am sorry to say that we have not been able to come to an agreement with the McCarthy estate. We have been negotiating with them. The department has been renting grounds there for years, and we hope to be able to come to some arrangement soon. There has been some correspondence about it.

Mr. BERGERON. On which side of the river is it?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. On the same spot as it has been since 1889. The department has been trying to buy it, as I explained a few nights ago.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. gentleman, at a later stage, give us the dimensions of the tug, the cost of the hull, and the cost of the machinery that he intends to put in it?

Mr. BENNETT.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Certainly.

Mr. BENNETT. I am surprised that the hon. member for Essex (Mr. McGregor) should be so neglectful of the interests of the ship-builders on the Erie in his part of the province. They will not be pleased to know that the Minister is building tugs down in the lower provinces and bringing them past their door, and the hon. member for Essex laughs at it.

Mr. MCGREGOR. He will take care of himself.

Mr. BENNETT. If report speaks truly, that hon. gentleman is to be taken care of by the Government soon. My hon. friend who represents Muskoka (Mr. McCormack) is the owner, or part owner, of the tug I refer to, the tug "Signal," which, I am informed, they would willingly sell for \$5,000. He furthermore tells me that the tug "Signal" is ninety-five feet in length, a larger tug than the "Trudeau," and draws ten feet of water, and the hull of the "Signal" was built for \$3,500.

Mr. BERTRAM. Can you tell how old it is?

Mr. BENNETT. I have not yet looked at its teeth.

Mr. BERTRAM. When was it built?

Mr. BENNETT. About two years ago. Now, the Minister must admit that he is constructing a tug which could have been built on the shores of the Georgian Bay at several points, for much less than \$3,500, and he will find that before he gets through towing it up from Sorel to the Georgian Bay, he will have been at a further cost of at least \$1,000.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have not much experience in ship-building, but I know there are good tugs and bad tugs.

Mr. MCGREGOR. On the other hand, a boat drawing ten feet of water might not suit the purpose required by my hon. friend. They require a boat of light draught. The hon. gentleman opposite exaggerates when he talks of the cost of towing this boat from Sorel to the Georgian Bay. There are boats going up the rivers and lakes almost every day, and \$150 or \$200, at the outside, will tow this boat from Sorel to the Georgian Bay. It can be hooked on behind one of the propellers and towed up the river and lakes. It is not necessary to send a tug after her.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is the draught?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. About eight feet.

Mr. HUGHES. Does the Minister propose to ask for tenders for this dredge to be built in the Kaministiquia River?