

Mr. PUGSLEY. He has made such a report to me.

Mr. HENDERSON. I understand that a deputation waited upon the hon. gentleman's department asking for the construction of an embankment along the water side of the beach, extending northerly from Burlington bay towards the village of Burlington, with a view of preserving the beach and widening it. Has the hon. gentleman any intention of proceeding with that work this year?

Mr. PUGSLEY. We have a report on that work, but it has not yet been decided to undertake it during this year. That is as far as I can say to-night. The hon. gentleman understands with reference to any work not in the estimates, that I would not be able to say what the government would do until the matter has been considered in council.

Picnic islands—improvement of northern channel in Georgian bay, \$45,000.

Mr. W. R. SMYTH. Is it the intention of the government to deepen the channel opposite Picnic islands? I asked the same question last year. I understand that the channel has a depth of 24 feet up to that point, and it is almost useless, the same depth is provided opposite Picnic islands.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The hon. gentleman is quite right, and the object of this vote is to deepen the channel at that point, to straighten it, and make it available for navigable purposes.

Providence bay, Manitoulin island—extension of wharf—revote of \$4,500 lapsed, \$5,000.

Mr. W. R. SMYTH. Has this wharf been completed?

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is to make provision towards extending outward the stem of the present government wharf on the east side of the bay. We propose, in making this extension, to add ballasting and cribwork 300 feet long in a northwesterly direction.

Providence Bay wharf, Manitoulin island—warehouse built on stone embankment protected by cribwork, \$3,650.

Mr. W. R. SMYTH. Is that work going on?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, but we will put it under construction the coming season as early as possible.

Blanche river—improvements on main stream and south branch, \$7,000.

Mr. SPROULE. What improvements are you making there?

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is to improve the navigation of the channel. There is a good deal of traffic on this river. It is to complete improvements, remove snags, do dredging work and to maintain the plant which we have there.

Mr. S. SHARPE. Is there any navigation on the Blanche river?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, there are some small boats.

Mr. S. SHARPE. I would like to ask the minister if he has received any complaints lately in connection with the lowering of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe? There has been considerable public money spent at Washago, taking rocks out of the channel and putting in stop logs, and there is a great deal of difficulty in regard to the regulating of these waters, farm lands being submerged on account of the stop logs being kept in too long. I received a letter the other day complaining that the stop logs are in now. There is no necessity for these stop logs being kept in now because they should let the water out and allow it to run away in order to avoid the spring freshets. If the water is kept in the land is submerged and the farmers cannot get on their land in the spring. I understand there is a man in attendance, paid by public money, for the purpose of regulating these stop logs. There are some interests desiring to have the stop logs kept in continuously. I would like to ask the minister if there have been any complaints received by the department lately, in connection with this matter, who is in charge of the stop logs and why the logs are kept in during the winter season. The object and purpose of keeping the stop logs in is to keep up the water and thereby improve navigation, but there is no possible excuse for keeping the stop logs in at the present time. They should be left out until after the spring freshets are over so that the farmers can get upon their land in spring. There have been several thousand dollars spent in opening up the channel and blowing out rocks in order to lower the water and the stop logs, of course, have been put in for the purpose of regulating the depth of the water. You are defeating the purpose of the spending of this money by keeping the stop logs in.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am very glad the hon. gentleman called the matter to my attention a few days ago by sending me a letter bearing on the subject. I sent it to the chief engineer with directions to have it looked into at once, and the chief engineer tells me that he will see that the matter is inquired into to see exactly whose fault it