

But the Mackay Company had not the contract at all for dredging. The contract stood in the name of the Grant Company. I am referring to the contract at Tiffin; I am not referring to the contract at Victoria harbour at all.

We think that by using the two dredging plants our company own and by continuing to employ the dredging plant of the Canadian Dredge and Construction Company, of Midland, we can have the harbour ready for the grain trade in the fall.

If these three dredging plants are not sufficient to expedite the work, and if it is absolutely necessary, our company has a new dredging plant in the course of construction.

What are the facts. Here are a set of tenders placed before the department by Mackay through Grant, and Mackay and Grant, and the letters of Grant and Mackay are by really the same person. What was the end sought by Grant and Mackay? Mackay before had contracts at 15 and 16 cents a yard. There is an arrangement among these dredging concerns by which they collude to place higher figures on work they do not wish to get.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Among which dredging concerns?

Mr. BENNETT. Here are two, Mackay's and Grant's to commence with, and there are more. Now what was the position? Mackay expected—having two dredges there on the ground and having a third one in course of construction as he said in his letter—by the fraud that was being perpetrated by the Spohn Company and by the Grant Company not to be driven to do the work as he had done it in former years at 15 and 16 cents a yard, but to be able to steal from the people of this country 53 cents a yard. And every man who knows Mackay and who has heard this matter discussed as it was discussed during the local campaign took Mackay at his own estimate when he made statements that were inconsistent with the facts.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The people of Owen Sound do not seem to agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett).

Mr. BENNETT. His majority in Owen Sound of 450 was reduced to a miserable 43, and it may be a matter of exposure in the election courts how that was brought about.

Mr. TELFORD. The hon. member is wrong with respect to the figures.

Mr. BENNETT. What were the figures?

Mr. TELFORD. About 178 in Owen Sound.

Mr. BENNETT. In the last election?

Mr. TELFORD. In the one before.

Mr. BENNETT. If the hon. gentleman gets any comfort in Mackay's majority be-

ing reduced from 270 to 43 he can have it. But anyway it is more of a majority than the hon. gentleman (Mr. Telford) will have in Owen Sound next election.

Mr. TELFORD. Is the hon. member aware that Owen Sound is a Conservative town and that the Conservatives generally give a majority?

Mr. BENNETT. And they will give a majority again, and I hope they will have an opportunity to do so next fall. Here is this man Mackay, according to his own letter associated with this Grant Company; here is the precious Mr. A. G. Mackay of unsavory reputation and memory with the people of Ontario. Here is this same Mr. A. G. Mackay with two dredges lying in the harbour and a third one coming in as he says, having had the work in Midland harbour at 15 and 16 cents a yard, entering into a scheme or a contract or an agreement with this so called Grant Company that they were to share the work between themselves. Now, Sir, what remained to be done by Grant? Grant comes down to the city of Ottawa accompanied by a man named Kastner from Warton who had a record in one of the North Grey election trials when these blackguards were brought over from Buffalo, and these men together sat down and as the tenders prove Grant writes the two tenders to which Kastner signs his name and the tenders went to the Department of Public Works. Mr. Aylesworth was acting Minister of Public Works, and in view of the fact that their tender is 53 cents a yard and that a lower one of 30 cents a yard is not acted upon, the acting minister (Mr. Aylesworth) refused to give the work to Mackay at 53 cents. There was fraud perpetrated by Kastner and by Grant, and the parties participating in the prospective fraud were Mackay and Grant as was shown right on the face of the documents, and it cannot be gainsaid. Why did not Mr. Aylesworth give the contract at 53 cents?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I do not like to interrupt my hon. friend, but he will remember that under the terms of the advertisement tenderers were allowed to tender for the various works in each province. The Dominion Dredging Company tendered for other work. I do not know that they tendered for other work in Ontario, but they certainly tendered for other work in the province of Quebec, and they had no more dredging plant than was absolutely necessary to enable them to perform the work that was awarded to them, and so the Dominion Dredging Company could not undertake this work. Consequently the acting minister was obliged to call for new tenders. My information is that had the Dominion Dredging Company been prepared to do this work the contract would have been given to them as the lowest tenderers.