

there are private docks and the water is of such a depth that no demand has been made for any dredging, although some may be required. Perhaps if that harbour happened to be in some other part of the country there would be some dredging done. However, it is getting along very well without any. I am not saying that it is not needed, but I do say that if this continued washing is allowed to go on—the washing of clay out of the bank into the harbour—it will be necessary for the minister to do some dredging or erect some structure to prevent the washing away of the land. The property of the Militia Department will very soon be in danger, as it is only just across the street, and in ten or fifteen years we may find that the drill hall is being washed away, unless something is done to protect it. I think there is very strong reason in this case for invoking the assistance of the department. In these very estimates I find an item, which we may be asked to pass to-night, as follows:

Fraser river—to refund to the municipality of Delta one-half their expense of constructing emergency works to protect the south bank of the river near Ladner's Landing on condition that the government of British Columbia will refund the other half.

Now, if we are going to give that to our friends in British Columbia, why not do the same in the case of the county of Halton? I am not asking the government to do the whole thing. I believe the county council will be quite willing to assist. Yes, and without authority, I would say that they would be willing to do half if the government would come to the rescue and do the other half. I think we have an excellent precedent in this case of British Columbia, and I hope the minister will not disregard that precedent. If he asks the House to vote that item, I think he is bound to do the same for the county I represent, for the cases are very similar. I trust the minister will instruct his engineer, if necessary, to make another survey of Burlington. I hope he will not allow it to be lost sight of. And, while he is doing that, I believe he might extend his observations two and a half miles further east, and do something to assist the county, who are constructing one groyne or pier, to put out three or four more and so prevent the destruction of property and the washing away of the land and roadway which is going on constantly. I understand that along that shore the farmers are throwing out groynes or piers in an inexpensive way. They have been doing this for years. But outside of Burlington only in the two cases I have specially mentioned has the damage been very great. One is in the township of Nelson, and the other in the township of Trafalgar, where

Mr. HENDERSON.

120 feet of a man's farm have been washed away in twenty-five years. I am not speaking of that so particularly, because I have not had an opportunity to examine it. But I am sure these are matters worthy of serious consideration. The minister may say that it is not the policy of the government to take up this matter, but I am inclined to think that these are serious matters which he will find, as time goes on, that he will have to give his attention to. New things crop up, and I believe there is a great deal of public money of this country spent in matters that are less worthy than these to which I refer.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am afraid I have a very unhappy way of expressing myself if the hon. member (Mr. Henderson) has derived comfort from what I said. I did not intend to hold out hope that his application could be complied with. In the case of the Fraser river, it was put upon the ground that the erosion was the result of dredging operations which the federal government had carried on. That was what the municipality stated, and we were satisfied that the claim was not unreasonable. With regard to Burlington, application was made to build a wall along in front of the property of about thirteen different people, in order to protect the property from erosion caused by the wash of the lake. We could not justify doing it upon that ground. But the hon. gentleman has made the statement that the harbour is being affected by reason of this silt being washed into the harbour—

Mr. HENDERSON. It is my impression that it would be. I gave that as a reasonable conclusion.

Mr. PUGSLEY. And it is the most reasonable thing the hon. member has said. For he puts it upon a tangible ground, and one that appeals to me. I will have the matter looked into and see whether the harbour is being affected by this erosion. In that case, we might do there the same as we are doing at Toronto island, where we are building protection works which will incidentally protect Toronto island from being washed away, but the direct object of which is to protect the harbour from being filled with the silt being washed from the island. I will have a further report made on the harbour, and see if this erosion affects the depth of water.

Mr. HENDERSON. Will the minister have a report made on the erosion two miles further east? Better say yes.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I do not think that would be of advantage at the present time.

Mr. D. A. GORDON. Is it the intention of the government to take steps looking to the improvement of the channel south of Fighting island, one of the most dangerous