

a mere fraction of the outlay for extending the canal to Newmarket. Commercially and agriculturally, though not perhaps politically, Bradford is quite as important a centre as Newmarket; and I might tell the minister that although Newmarket has been doing great things for the government in the past, it is not responding at the present time, and it might be well to see what Bradford would do. This question has been brought up several times, but we have now a new minister and we are looking hopefully to what he will do. Will he undertake to bring down something in the supplementary estimates for this work? It is perfectly feasible and reasonable in every respect. The ground is absolutely level from one point to the other. I hope the minister will have an inquiry made, and bring down a supplementary vote to have the work done at once.

Mr. GRAHAM. I would hardly like to say that I would bring in a supplementary estimate for the work. I am perfectly free to say that the explanation of my hon. friend carries some weight. Would it increase the volume of water?

Mr. LENNOX. It will not affect it.

Mr. GRAHAM. I will have the chief engineer make inquiry to see just what the position is from an engineering standpoint and what the probable cost will be.

Mr. LENNOX. Perhaps the minister will endeavour to let me know when we come to discuss the capital expenditure.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I wish to draw the minister's attention to the fact that the lockmaster at Fenelon falls has given notice to the farmers in the neighbourhood of Cameron lake that his instructions are—he does not say from whom, but I presume the chief engineer—to keep the waters of the lake a foot higher than the regulation level on the mitre sill of the dam. That was done nearly all of last year when the waters were low. I could give the name of one man who has nearly half an acre of an island washed away. At some points where the shores are level a rise of a foot will cover an acre of ground. The government should either keep the water down to the proper level or buy from the farmers the land which is flooded above that level.

Mr. GRAHAM. Instructions are, I think, to keep the water six feet on the sills.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. It is more than that.

Mr. GRAHAM. I think probably it will be necessary to make arrangements for

Mr. LENNOX.

a level of eight feet. I understand that provision is made generally for an 8-foot level.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Not on that lake.

Mr. WARD. The Minister of Railways spoke of his intention to ask for an appropriation to pay damages. In what direction will that be expended? Will it be applied to the payment of claims such as the hon. member for Victoria and Haliburton has spoken of, where the keeping up the levels has injured and actually destroyed a good deal of farm land. In the township of Otonabee, Mr. James Clark had a claim against the government, under the administration of my hon. friend's predecessor, and I understand his claim has been settled. A number of others have similar claims. Their farms have been cut off by reason of the water and a great deal of their land rendered quite useless. Will the appropriation be applied in payment of claims of that nature? Is it the case that Mr. Clark has been settled with?

Mr. GRAHAM. My recollection is that Mr. Clark was settled with. I suppose I was a little irregular possibly in mentioning the claims as they will come up in a future estimate. I prefer not to discuss them now. There will be an estimate for such claims, and I shall have full information later.

Mr. WARD. I know of a similar claim to Mr. Clark's which has had no consideration so far. I would like to communicate with the party, if the appropriation proposed is for that purpose.

Mr. GRAHAM. It is for that purpose. We want to pay all the claims that are rightly entitled to be paid.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I would like to draw the attention of the minister to two matters. On the Balsam Lake section, when the survey was made for levels some time ago, the country was surveyed away back from the water, and the farm of M. A. Boynton was partly flooded. A portion of his farm is a fine swamp which must have been overlooked at the time of the surveys, and they may not have got the exact levels. In any event his fine swamp is practically ruined, and where his cattle used to pasture is covered with water.

Then there is another matter. The Pigeon river runs through Omeme. Formerly the people used the stream, as it was navigable, but the locks on the main line were allowed to get out of repair and bogs floated into the channel. Now, however that there is a possibility of our having the Trent canal opened early, the people are turning their attention to the advantages of the river route, and they find some repairs necessary. It would not take much dredging