

Mr. MONTAGUE. Why are the dredges not working in Ontario ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Some of them are undergoing repairs. One will shortly be working at Belleville.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Are the dredges in Ontario manned ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Then they are manned and doing nothing ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No, many of the men are doing repairs.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) What is the name of the dredge that is working at St. Jean Deschaillons ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). (Translation.) "Nithsdale."

Mr. McALISTER. Is it the intention of the Minister to send a dredge up the Restigouche River, part of which is in Quebec and part in New Brunswick ? Some dredging was done there two or three years ago, but the dredge was taken away and the work never completed. Dredging is very much needed.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Restigouche is on the map, on the programme for this year. Whether we will be able to reach it, I do not know.

Mr. McALISTER. Then we may expect the dredge up there this summer ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We hope so.

Mr. McALISTER. Part of the work will be for the benefit of the county of Bonaventure, which sends a supporter of the Government, and part for the county I represent, and between the two we should be able to get this dredging done.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It would not make any difference because the member for Bonaventure supports the Government. I take a deep interest in the hon. member for Restigouche.

Mr. TAYLOR. Did I understand the Minister to state that the average cost of each dredge is \$60 a day ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I said the working expenses of some dredges were between \$50 and \$60, and that the cost varied, depending on the size of the dredge.

Mr. TAYLOR. I understand the Minister to say that there are nine dredges in Ontario and Quebec ? At an average of \$60 per day the cost would be \$540, or \$16,200 per month. Taking the working time at seven months, this would mean an expenditure of \$113,400. That shows how honest the Minister is in giving figures to the committee.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The hon. gentleman has proved by these figures how little he understands what he is talking about.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. Minister has misled the committee in stating that the average expense was \$60 per day. The dredge "Queen," including the crew on both dredge and tug, averages only \$30 per day.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How much does the Minister intend to charge a company or town owning the harbour where dredging is done ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We do not always make a charge. The hon. gentleman will remember that a great deal of dredging has been done in harbours owned by private corporations and towns.

Mr. SPROULE. We should have more information in regard to the cost of running a dredge. Does the Minister include repairs in the cost stated ? Take the dredge "Challenge." How many are required to work the dredge, without the tug ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I cannot be expected to possess a complete knowledge of all these details. If the officers of my department have deceived me in the past, I am sorry, but I am sure they have not done so. I am asking the same vote as in past years. During the last twenty years I have heard in the House and in the press gallery these items discussed, but I never remember such close inquiries to be made. It is, however, the right of hon. gentlemen to make them. There are twelve men on the "Challenge" and tug and scow.

Mr. SPROULE. At what wages ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. \$80 for the engineer, \$50 for the cranesmen, \$30 a month for the fireman, \$25 for deck hands, \$25 for scowmen, \$30 for cooks, \$50 for wheelmen, \$50 for tug engineer, \$30 for tug firemen.

Mr. BERGERON. The hon. gentleman is simply continuing the policy of his predecessors ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have dredges and must work them.

Mr. BERGERON. For twenty years the hon. gentleman has watched from the press gallery similar inquiries in Supply, yet he continues the same policy as was formerly pursued. It is, therefore, no use to have a change of Government. The hon. gentleman expended \$17,000 in Quebec and \$24,000 in Ontario ; where is the balance ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I said we spent that sum up to December last. We have two months till July.

Mr. BERGERON. But I understood that work had not been commenced ?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It is going on.