

Mr. BARKER. You should not have let that work within ten days and awaited the opening of tenders.

Mr. PUGSLEY. How has the country suffered by that? My hon. friend says that if I had not done that, somebody else might have come in and tendered. But he cannot find the slightest evidence that any contractor was prepared or would have tendered for that work, whether the dredge was at work or not. Is not this the important thing, that I advertised for tenders and nobody evidently wanted to go there to go to works. And is it not an important fact that, the next year, these people, the Maritime Dredging Company, having the opportunity to go there to work, did not want to go? If it were the 'soft snap' my hon. friend would have the committee believe, would not they have been anxious to go there? But they had had enough of it; they had worked there under most disadvantageous circumstances. And, when we actually put the government dredge to work, we found that a fair and reasonable cost was \$1 per cubic yard. Now, does the hon. member think the price is too great? Does he think that the late W. J. McCordick gave a fictitious valuation for that work? Will my hon. friend who represents the city of St. John (Mr. Daniel) rise in his place and say that he would not rely on the statement which the late superintendent of dredging made? I do not think he will, for he knew W. J. McCordick as well as I did, and he knows there was not a more careful and conscientious official in the employ of the Dominion than that gentleman. And will he say that Mr. Scammell, an engineer of ability and integrity, would go up there, and, having examined the work, make a false certificate? And would he say that Mr. Stead, who also saw the work, had to go on it day after day, made a false report when he said that it was worth 90 cents a yard? Surely, these hon. gentlemen who have taken up days and days of the time of the Public Accounts Committee—

Mr. LALOR. May I ask the hon. minister a question?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Certainly.

Mr. LALOR. Is the Mr. Stead of whom he speaks, the same gentleman who reported that the price paid for the saw-dust wharf was a fair and reasonable price?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The same gentleman. And may I say that not a man from the town of Richibucto, the county of Kent, or the province of New Brunswick, has ventured to come here before the committee, except Mr. Richard O'Leary, and impugn the valuation, and—

Mr. CROCKET. Mr. Richard O'Leary sold the property for \$700.

Mr. PUGSLEY.

Mr. PUGSLEY—he is a violent partisan, one of the most violent—

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. He sold the property himself for \$700.

Mr. PUGSLEY. These hon. gentlemen incurred the expense of summoning a very prominent man, a resident of Richibucto, Mr. James, a prominent lawyer, who has lived in Richibucto all his life, and who drew the deed of this property to Mr. O'Leary, yet not one of them ventured to ask Mr. James the fair value of the property. On the other hand, disinterested witnesses testified that it was fairly worth from \$5,000 to \$10,000. And I will say this to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lalor) who asked this question, that the Crown can dispose of a part of that property, retaining the portion which we require more immediately and which is most necessary for the purpose of the Crown with a view to extending the railway wharf, for \$3,500.

An hon. MEMBER. Better do it.

Mr. PUGSLEY. And, with this sold, we shall have a most valuable property, which, when it is improved, will be not only of advantage to the general trade, but will greatly promote the interest of the town of Richibucto.

Mr. LALOR. Does the hon. minister intend to dispose of that property for \$3,500?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, I may say, I do. I can sell the whole property for \$5,500, or \$500 more than the Crown paid for it. I can retain 200 feet frontage—

Mr. GOODEVE. May I ask the minister—can he sell it at the advanced price without improvements?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, without spending a dollar.

Mr. CROCKET. To whom?

Mr. PUGSLEY. To A. and R. Loggie.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Some hon. members laugh, but let me say that A. and R. Loggie are men whose reputation will not be questioned, in the province of New Brunswick at all events, and they have made us a distinct and business offer of \$5,500 for the property. I have declined it, because we require 200 feet to improve the wharf and give the necessary railway facilities to—

Mr. OWEN. Mr. Chairman, I—

Mr. PUGSLEY. If my hon. friend (Mr. Owen) will permit me one moment—

Mr. OWEN. I rise to a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Last session, I brought up some matters relating to Ontario when the committee was considering the estimates