

the policy of the government by the hon. minister who then went before his constituents, that was the reason which he gave to his constituents for not insisting upon the right he had of succeeding the hon. member for Montreal, St. Mary's, in the Department of Public Works. Now, as I said before, we are asked to vote large sums of money for the Department of Public Works, which, in all probability, if the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries was telling the truth, which I do not doubt for one instant, will be spent by him, will be spent by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and which will not be under the control of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works. I know my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works means well, I know he is doing everything he can to give all the information in his possession to this committee, but I say that if he is to be succeeded in a short time, or at the end of this session, in a part of his department by the hon. gentleman who is now at the head of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, he cannot really tell this committee what will be the policy of the department when the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries takes that part of his department over. Therefore, it seems to me that it is a most important question that we should have solved at this moment and before we go any further in voting money, before we put into the hands of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works, any more money, before we give him the spending of any more funds, we should have the policy stated which is to be carried out by his successor in regard to that important part of the public works of Canada. What is his successor going to do? Can my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works give us what is going to be, as the hon. member for Montreal, St. Mary's, put it, the ensemble of the policy of the Department of Public Works? How does my hon. friend know that if the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries becomes vested with this part of the department he will follow out the policy which the hon. Minister of Public Works is laying down to the committee now? How can my hon. friend say that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries will not follow the policy which was propounded to this House by the hon. member for Welland (Mr. German), that he will not tie up all these dredges which have cost such a large amount of money and will not employ contractors to do the dredging? Can my hon. friend say that this will not be the policy of his successor? Probably his successor will be appointed at the end of this session, if the rumour which is now current turns out to be true. I think that we should get the unanimous support of this committee in not voting any more money, in not putting any more funds into the hands of the hon. Minister of Public Works until the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries is here to tell us if he is

going to follow the policy which is laid down by my hon. friend. But, the principal question and the question which we must insist upon having an answer to now, is: What is the policy of the government in reference to the Public Works Department? Is it true that the Public Works Department is to be divided into two, is it true that this most important part of the Public Works Department; that is, the administration of the questions which we have been discussing here to-night and the spending of this money which we are asked to vote to-night, is to be left in the hands of my hon. friend, or is to be transferred to the hands of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries? Is it true that the Department of Public Works, which, since confederation, I believe, has been what it is to-day, is to be dismantled, to use the term employed by the hon. member for Montreal, St. Mary's, or is it to remain as it is to-day? In other words, are the pledges which were given to the electors of Maisonneuve to be carried out? Are the promises which were given to the electors of Maisonneuve to be realized by the government? Is that the policy of the government, or is the Department of Public Works to remain as it is with my hon. friend, who so worthily fills the chair? Is it to remain in his hands, or are we to have it divided and this part given over to the Department of Marine and Fisheries? Even the supporters of the government should insist upon a categorical answer being given, before we vote any more money to this department.

Mr. INGRAM. This is a very serious matter. We find that a minister differs from his colleagues and he is obliged to leave them. What follows? A number of gentlemen come here to Ottawa to urge the appointment of a successor to that minister, and finally Mr. Préfontaine is selected. But instead of getting the Department of Public Works he was trusted with the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and he returns to Quebec and holds out the hope to his electors that the departments will be divided, and that he will administer the Department of Marine and Fisheries as well as a large portion of the Public Works Department. I would like to point out to the Minister of Marine—

An hon. MEMBER. He is not here.

Mr. INGRAM. He is not here and is hardly ever here. I want to point out that while the province of Quebec administered the Department of Public Works—and probably it was right that a minister from that province should preside over that department—yet now that the department is put in charge of a representative of the province of Ontario it will be a reflection on the largest province of the Dominion to have that department cut in two. The hon. gentleman (Hon. Mr. Sutherland) who is