

created this new harbour and the basin to which all vessels have a free right of access without paying any tolls is one I would like to make to-morrow with the Port Credit Company or any other company so they would give up their wharfs to the free use of vessels without payment of tolls.

Mr. BLAIN. What proposition has my hon. friend to make?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The Port Credit Company have some dilapidated wharfs that they might very well turn over to the public and we would do dredging and make improvements and the public would have a right to go there with vessels without charge. I think one of the greatest drawbacks to these harbours on the Great Lakes is that they are owned by private companies who have allowed them to fall into decay so that the wharfs are of no value and yet they hold on to them as if they were valuable properties.

Mr. BLAIN. I agree with my hon. friend.

Mr. PORTER. Can the public approach the new harbour from the land?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Oh, yes, by highway and by railway track.

Mr. BLAIN. The track is private.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is owned by the Grand Trunk is it not?

Mr. BLAIN. No, it is private, it is hundreds of yards from the Grand Trunk through line.

Mr. PUGSLEY. There is a highway running through the property.

Mr. BLAIN. A general highway runs past there, yes.

Mr. PORTER. The agreement covers the use of the dock by the public.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Victoria Harbour, Ontario, improvements, further amount required, \$111,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is to carry on work at the new harbour created at Victoria harbour. The Canadian Pacific Railway have built a magnificent elevator there they are building a magnificent railway track from Victoria harbour to Port Hope, with a grade of three-tenths of one per cent over which they expect to haul large trains and we are doing the dredging. The appropriation became exhausted in September. I submitted the matter to council as in the case of Port Arthur and Fort William and council consented on hearing the facts to allow them to go on with the additional work till the end of the season.

Mr. EDWARDS. Has the minister received a request from the council of the

township of Wolfe Island asking for dredging to be done around the wharf lately purchased by that municipality which is to be free to the public?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am not quite sure at this moment, but I think I recollect getting a letter. I am considering the question. I think that now the wharf is owned by the municipality there would not be the objection that existed when it was a private wharf.

Mr. EDWARDS. The minister raised that objection last session when I brought the matter up, but the township council have purchased this property and will require to spend a large sum to put it in condition. It would be a great advantage if vessels could come in close and unload coal on the island. It would mean a saving of 50 to 60 cents a ton to the islanders as well as to the council for use on their ferry boat. I have a letter from the reeve and council asking me to call this to the minister's attention and saying they have sent a similar letter to the department. I hope for a definite expression on that matter this session.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It will depend on the report of the chief engineer, if it can be done for a reasonable sum, I do not see why it should not be done.

Mr. GORDON (Nipissing). Has the contract been let for the proposed dam at the outlet of French river at the foot of Lake Nipissing?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. GORDON (Nipissing). When is it proposed to commence building?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I think it is one year we have given the contractors to construct the dam. I presume they will get to work right away in the spring.

Mr. SPROULE. What was the amount voted last year for Victoria harbour?

Mr. PUGSLEY. \$145,000.

Mr. SPROULE. This is another over-expenditure of \$111,300.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Does not the minister think this is a rather bad principle? The only feature about these over-expenditures that seems to be at all defensible is the fact that they were submitted to council. But still I think the principle is unsound.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I went up there during the summer and I saw the great work which the Canadian Pacific railway is doing. They have built a magnificent elevator and they are building a wharf. They are really creating a splendid harbour on the eastern shore of the Georgian Bay to assist in the