longs to Marks & Macdonald, did a good deal of work at the Kaministiquia River at $8 per hour, although it was a very poor dredge indeed and did not dredge more than 200 yards per day. Also a dredge owned by Mr. McNamee.

Mr. CLANCY. If the Minister of Public Works were as apt to follow the good example of his predecessors as their bad ones, he would not have so many accusations brought against him. Would the hon. gentleman give us some further information as to the reasons why this work was let without tenders being called for.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I stated the case very clearly this afternoon. I said there was some heavy work carried out in Toronto Bay by Murray & Cleveland, and to build the jetties some dredging had to be done. The whole thing, jetties and dredging, was given by contract to Murray & Cleveland, and in this case I followed the precedent set by the late Administration.

Mr. CLANCY. Then we do not understand that the work was more difficult, but the same class of work as has had to be done in other cases.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I did not say that the work was more difficult but that, so far as Toronto was concerned, it was of a different character.

Mr. CLANCY. I understood the hon. Minister to say that the dredges used for last year dredged from 800 to 1,000 yards per day.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No; I said last year the capacity of the dredges was between 700 and 800 yards, while this year we have a better dredge.

Mr. CLANCY. Are we to understand that this year more work will be done at $8 per hour owing to the increased capacity of the dredges?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC W[illegible]S. I am so informed.

Mr. CLANCY. These dredges, employed at $8 per hour are supposed to be of a certain capacity.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. There is no fixed rule now any more than under the late regime. I stated this afternoon, and it is perfectly true, that I am hiring about the same dredges as before. Dredges are very scarce. If I could find more, in some of the provinces, I should be very glad indeed. Generally I do not think we have any dredges that are doing less than 700 to 800 yards a day.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. This afternoon the hon. member for East Grey worked himself up into a state of considerable excitement over work in Toronto harbour, but he did not seem to be well informed of the facts. He told us repeatedly that this gentleman whose name was under discussion was a painter.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Even if he were.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, even if he were—but I would like to point out how little these hon. gentlemen know of the matter they criticise so severely.

Mr. SPROULE. If the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) does not want to misrepresent me, I may tell him that I said I had noticed the statement in the newspapers that this man was a painter.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Are we to understand, then, that the hon. member for East Grey consumes an hour or so of the time of the House making statements based upon newspaper reports? And, as to the newspaper report, I suppose that if it is shown to be wholly foundationless in one point it will be regarded as not very reliable in others. The hon. member for East Grey, in his criticism running over an hour said that this job had been let to a painter.

Mr. SPROULE. I did not criticise it twenty minutes. That is a stretch of imagination on the part of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson).

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman said time and again that this work was let to a painter. That was the effect of his argument and I have no doubt that "Hansard" will show that that is the case, for I listened to the hon. gentleman very patiently. Then the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) made a tailor out of him, I think, and that is the line of criticism that has been followed. I have only to tell these gentlemen that the engineer of the department has a record of what is done every day by these dredges and the officers of the department are interested in seeing that value is got for money paid. At the same time I only point out that these hon. gentlemen, relying upon information as to this man's business——

Mr. SPROULE. Is he a painter?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. SPROULE. I guess the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) does not know anything about it.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have known him a great many years. How long has the hon. gentleman known him? I do not think he is a painter. Certainly he did not paint the hon. gentleman's face red this afternoon when he worked himself up into a state of excitement over this matter. I am not aware that Mr. Phin ever had a paint brush in his hand. I know that he is a member of a large contracting firm and has been connected with this kind of busi-