

Mr. Minister? Your engineers do not amount to a row of pins. Here is an example where the engineer recommended a wharf to be built and the wharf was built, and there was no stone put into it, and away went the wharf with the ice last spring. Now, this is a small lake, about twenty-five miles long by two or three miles wide, and there is no current in it.

Mr. J. D. REID. Are there any boats on the lake?

Mr. MORIN. Yes, but they belong to the lumber company and the lumber company uses its own wharf. There was \$7,000 wasted on this wharf before, and I would like the minister to explain why he wants to waste \$13,000 more now.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I think my hon. friend is in error with regard to the importance of the matter, because my information is there was a large petition in favour of this work, and upon investigation it was decided to be in the public interest to build the wharf. It would appear there are several steamboats plying on the lake.

Mr. MORIN. There are, but they belong to the lumber company, and they use their own wharf.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am glad to get the information from my hon. friend in regard to the alleged defects in the wharf, and I will have the matter looked into. The work is under contract, and the contractor will have to complete the work properly before he is paid.

Mr. MORIN. Who is the contractor?

Mr. PUGSLEY. John Lowry, of Ottawa.

Mr. MORIN. How long is the wharf to be?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The Lambton wharf will have a total length of 350 feet extending out to 6 feet at low water. The Coleraine wharf will have a total length of 300 feet.

Mr. MORIN. The minister says there are boats plying on that lake; where do they start from and where do they go to?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am sorry to say I do not know.

Mr. MORIN. I believe you know very well.

Mr. J. D. REID. This is another case where the member for the county apparently got up a petition and the government immediately proceeded to spend thousands of dollars on a wharf without inquiring whether it was necessary or not. The facts stated by the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Morin) prove that this money is squandered for political purposes.

Mr. MORIN. I can tell the minister that I will get no thanks for what I have said

Mr. MORIN

in the House to-night. Well, I want none. Every time I condemn unnecessary expenditure here, next day the Grits on the other side go for me, and say: Why did you say anything against that work being done in the province of Quebec; Ontario gets so much and the other provinces get so much, and we want to get our share. Well, the government is just squandering the money, and it would seem that all the Liberal member for a county needs to do is to ask for an expenditure, whether it is necessary or not, and he gets it. That was the policy of the previous Minister of Public Works; I don't accuse the present minister, because he is new in the office, and I shall not hang him before giving him a trial. I have here estimates for the last seven years, and what do they show? Every year there is expenditure in the Island of Orleans, at St. François, at St. Laurent and Ste. Famille. At St. François the population is about 500; it is situated at the lower end of the island, and they have a wharf there and another one about half a mile distant. At St. Jean de Orleans and St. Laurent it is the same thing. The thing is getting ridiculous. The member for the county asks for the money and he gets it, right or wrong. Is that what Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised before he came to power? In my county, in 1895, he told the people that if he came to power his government would be a government of example. He just omitted that little word 'bad,' for since he has come to power his government has been a government of bad example. He found fault with the Conservatives spending \$36,000,000 a year, but immediately on his coming to power in 1896 we voted \$52,000,000 at the special session of that year; the next year the estimates were \$58,000,000, the next year \$62,000,000, the next year \$70,000,000, the next year \$78,000,000, the next year \$82,000,000, the next year \$105,000,000 and this year we have \$119,000,000 in the main estimates and \$9,000,000 more in supplementaries already brought down, and the minister tells us there are more to come, and God only knows how many supplementary estimates he will have. The man who found fault with the late government for spending \$35,000,000 or \$40,000,000 is going to spend this year \$140,000,000 or \$150,000,000. What does that look like?

Mr. JOHNSTON. It looks good to me.

Mr. MORIN. But you are a Grit like the rest.

Manitoba—Grand Marais harbour, Lake Winnipeg—improvement of entrance, \$1,500.

Mr. STAPLES. What is the nature of this work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is to remove the sandbar to improve the entrance to the harbour.