

Mr. FISHER. It is a bulk sum contract.

Mr. BENNETT. A bulk sum for dredging, do I understand? How is that done, by an estimate that there would be so many yards in all probability?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, I understand that an estimate was made by the department of how much dredging would be needed there, I suppose by soundings, to get a certain depth and that contract was let.

Mr. BENNETT. How many yards was it estimated would be dredged for the \$20,000?

Mr. FISHER. 27,000 cubic yards.

Mr. BENNETT. What was the formation?

Mr. FISHER. Silt and mud.

Mr. BENNETT. Were tenders invited and if so how many were received?

Mr. FISHER. Six tenders were received in answer to advertisements. The tenderers were obliged to construct six lighters to do the work and when the contract is finished the lighters will belong to the government, in addition to our getting the depth of water.

Mr. BENNETT. Were the tenders asked for at so much per yard or was it for the lump work, including the supply of six lighters?

Mr. SPROULE. What will you do with the lighters when the job is done.

Mr. FISHER. We will use them for something else.

Mr. BENNETT. What is the estimated value of the lighters?

Mr. FISHER. I am told about \$6,000.

Mr. BENNETT. What is the name of the contractor?

Mr. FISHER. Hugh McDonald, of North Sydney.

Mr. BENNETT. What length of time was allowed for the tenders?

Mr. FISHER. About a month, the usual time.

Mr. BENNETT. Is it expected that \$14,000 will be spent this year?

Mr. FISHER. Oh, yes, the whole of it.

Mr. BENNETT. Only \$6,000 was expended last year.

Mr. FISHER. Yes, we hope to finish it this year.

Mr. BENNETT. What would be the average depth of water?

Mr. FISHER. I have not the contract here and I cannot say as to that. My information is it is six feet at low water.

Mr. BENNETT.

Of course there the tide rises very much indeed.

Mr. SPROULE. The lighters I suppose were to carry off the stuff excavated. It is a rather strange way to let a contract.

Mr. FISHER. I think the idea was that the contractor would not need the lighters for any other purpose and we would, and you could not get a contractor to build lighters for this work unless you took them off his hand.

Mr. SPROULE. Does the government keep a fleet of lighters on hand?

Mr. FISHER. Oh yes, we need a large number.

Mr. BENNETT. Who is the inspector as to the work performed there?

Mr. FISHER. I have not the name here.

Mr. BENNETT. What was it estimated this would cost per yard?

Mr. FISHER. The estimate of the engineer was about 50 cents a yard.

Mr. BENNETT. What is the average cost of dredging in Nova Scotia where there is a similar formation?

Mr. FISHER. I am informed that depends on the rise of the tide. This is on the Bay of Fundy where the rise of the tide is so great that it costs more than where there is not a tide.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Is this dredging for high or low water?

Mr. FISHER. It is to make a depth at low water. Of course the dredging has to go on or be interrupted by the very high tides.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. But if this harbour is to be reached at low water what is the need of dredging at all?

Mr. FISHER. That depends on the commerce; there are some places where the commerce can wait for a high tide and some places where it can not.

Mr. BENNETT. What was the depth when the tide was out before the dredging was done?

Mr. FISHER. Part of it was dry when the tide was out.

Mr. BENNETT. What is the depth of the deepest part of the dock?

Mr. FISHER. There is no navigable depth at low tide.

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Mr. BARKER. I do not rise to object to the construction of works at this point, but I am informed that two parallel piers are being run out to form a channel and that it is almost inevitable that the wash from the sea will continually fill up that