

5. Was the company asked to accept an extension of their contract last spring?

6. If so, was the request in writing or verbal, and by whom and to what officer of the company was it communicated?

7. If in writing, will the minister lay the correspondence on the table of the House without notice of motion?

Hon. WM. PUGSLEY:

1. Work started August 17, 1908. Dredge ceased operations October 29, 1908.

2. First contract by letter of superintendent of dredging to the company, dated August 10, 1908, authorizing company to commence work provided they would accept the lowest price per cubic yard, scow measurement, to be obtained by tenders, which were then being called for. Formal contract being executed by the contractors. November 6, 1908; by the department November 23, 1908.

3. November 20, 1908. Delay in passing order in council was due to the fact of the chief engineer requiring reports of experts independently of the resident engineer as to the value of the work before recommending the execution of a contract agreeing to pay the tender price of 90 cents per yard. These reports were made by the late W. J. McCordock, superintendent of dredging, and J. K. Scammell, resident engineer at St. John, and were only received in October, the last one—that of Mr. Scammell—being dated October 19.

4. No.

5. The company was asked if they would accept an extension of their contract last spring in case an order in council was passed granting such extension.

6. Verbal. By myself to the president or one of the directors of the company, and, I think, to both.

7. Answered by reply to No. 6.

TORONTO HARBOUR.

Mr. J. D. REID:

1. What is the name of the contractor or contractors for the extension of the breakwater and work in connection therewith at the eastern entrance, Toronto harbour?

2. What is the amount of contract, or contracts, for said work?

3. What is the name of the sub-contractor, or contractors, of such contracts?

Mr. PUGSLEY:

No contract has been awarded for the extension of the breakwater at the eastern entrance, Toronto harbour; but the department is rebuilding, by day labour, the superstructure of the piers at the said eastern entrance, under the supervision of the district engineer.

SALMON RIVER POSTMASTERSHIP.

Mr. JAMESON:

1. Is there a vacancy in the postmastership at Salmon river, Digby county?

2. If so, when did it occur, and who has since been acting?

3. Has any petition been received signed by residents of Salmon river, asking for the appointment of a postmaster?

4. If so, when was it received, who did it recommend, and why has the appointment not been made?

5. What action does the minister propose to take, when will he act, and upon whose recommendation?

Hon. R. LEMIEUX:

1. Yes.

2. The office has been vacant since the death of the former postmaster, Mr. H. C. Perry, on the 16th September last. Mr. Edward T. Doucette has been placed in charge as acting postmaster.

3. Yes.

4. Petitions were received on or about the 9th November last, in one of which a Mr. H. J. Foley was recommended. The other asked for the establishment of a post office at some distance from Salmon river, which would involve either a change in the location of the Salmon river post office or the establishment of another post office in too close proximity to the Salmon river office. No action has been taken on these petitions.

5. A decision has not yet been made in the matter.

WINDYGATES POST OFFICE.

Mr. SHARPE:

1. Why did the government change the post office at Windygates, Manitoba?

2. Was there a petition from the people served at that post office? If so, how many names were on it?

3. If there was not a petition, who recommended the change, and what reasons did they give for asking for a change?

Mr. LEMIEUX:

1. The post office having been rendered vacant by the death of the postmaster, it became necessary to make a new appointment to the postmastership.

2. A petition containing 34 signatures, asking that the location of the office might not be changed, was received at the department.

3. The change was recommended by Mr. J. F. Greenway, who, having made special inquiry, found that it would be in the best interests of the community.

PURCHASE OF GOVERNMENT VESSELS.

Mr. MONK:

1. Has the government purchased or agreed to purchase or lease any ships in connection with the proposed Canadian navy?

2. Have any orders in council been passed in connection with the purchase, lease or construction of said ships? If so, at what date or dates?