

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We are paying \$8 an hour the same as was paid by the late Government.

Mr. SPROULE. How many cubic yards do they dredge in a day?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Between 800 and 1,000 yards a day on an average. The dredging there last year cost between 12 and 14 cents a yard.

Mr. SPROULE. If my memory serves me, I figured it out that it cost 18 cents a yard.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Fourteen cents was the highest last year.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) stated that there were 37,500 yards excavated at Collingwood last year and there was expended \$20,000. If that be so, it cost over 50 cents a yard.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. In Collingwood the work is done by contract. When I came into the department Boon & Armstrong's tender was in, and it was so low that the chief engineer had reported against it, and the Minister did not give out the work. I decided that, provided Boon & Armstrong could give me proper security, I would give them the work at the price which was previously considered too low.

Mr. HAGGART. Is the contract let at a fixed price per yard?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We are giving a bulk sum for the whole work. At Owen Sound the dredging is in sand, but at Collingwood it is solid rock or hard-pan excavation, and is very different.

Mr. HAGGART. I was correct in my statement that you were paying 50 cents at one place and 14 cents at the other.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. There can be no comparison made between the work done at the two places.

Mr. SPROULE. It may be said, in justice to the Minister, that the excavation at Collingwood is shale rock in some places and solid rock and hard-pan in others. As the contract is let at a lump sum, and if the contractors are responsible parties and do the work properly, I suppose it does not matter the cost per yard.

Toronto Harbour—Works at eastern entrance, &c..... \$20,000

Mr. CLANCY. Is that work done by contract or day's work?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The dredging work is done by a hired dredge for which I am paying \$8 an hour under the same conditions as the work was done by the late Administration. The other work has been carried on by day's labour, under

Mr. SPROULE.

the direction of an old officer, Mr. Temple, and I think the work is very successfully carried out by him.

Mr. CLANCY. I want to ask whose dredge is engaged and whether the person having the contract last year is the owner of the dredge. Is the same person engaged this year and upon what terms?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The same man, Mr. Phin, has been engaged and he has done very good work.

Mr. CLANCY. Is Mr. Finn the owner of the dredge?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I cannot say. All I know is that I have hired the dredge from him and that he delivered the goods.

Mr. CLANCY. When did the Minister first make the arrangement with Mr. Phin?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My officers think the contract was made in July last, but I cannot give the exact date now.

Mr. CLANCY. When the contract was first made with Mr. Phin, was it for one year or more?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We entered into an agreement with Mr. Phin for the season, and I have renewed the contract for this year.

Mr. CLANCY. Was there any understanding last year that the contract was to be renewed this year?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. There was no understanding. I told Mr. Phin last year that if he carried out the work in a satisfactory manner I would be glad to give him the privilege of continuing.

Mr. CLANCY. Has the Minister any application to do the work for less than \$8 an hour or for a certain price per day? I am informed the Minister has an offer to do the work for less.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I did not receive any offer.

Mr. CLANCY. Was such an offer made to the department by any person?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The officers tell me they did not receive any offer.

Mr. CLANCY. I understand that Mr. Phin is a varnish manufacturer of Brantford, and is not a gentleman who has any knowledge of that work at all. I am informed that he is not a dredge man in any sense, and did not own the dredging plant that was employed last year. The information I have is that this work was offered to be done this year by the dredges engaged last year at a very considerably less sum than what Mr. Phin is now getting. The hon.