

had the work at 65 cents. This year he was the only tenderer and he has it at 78 cents. At Blind river the tenders this year were 23 cents, the lowest, and 26 cents, the highest. Last year the work was being done at 18½ cents. At Port Elgin there were four tenders, the lowest 22 cents, the highest 42 cents. Last year the work was done at 25 cents, so there is a saving of 3 cents a cubic yard there. At Trenton harbour there is a marked difference. The lowest tender this year was 26 cents a cubic yard and there were three tenders, the Morgan Company, the Weddell Company and the Randolph Macdonald Company. The Morgan's tender was 26 cents, Weddell's 39 cents and Macdonald's 43 cents. Last year the work was done under contract at 14 cents per cubic yard. The contract has been given to Weddell at the price of Morgan's tender. Morgan has been doing work in Quebec and without wishing to say anything to injure him there was a great deal of dissatisfaction with his work last year.

Mr. J. D. REID. Who had it last year?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Prendergast, of Montreal. He lost a great deal of money on it. In Toronto last year the work was being done at 13½ cents, but this year it is 19½ cents. The work is being done by Healy who is the only tenderer. At Penetang, Bowman who had it last year at 14 cents was the only tenderer this year at 19 cents.

Mr. BENNETT. Did the minister of his own accord raise the dredging there from 14 cents to 19½ cents?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not of my own accord. We advertised publicly for tenders and the lowest tender was 19 cents. It was a question of accepting that tender or not proceeding with the work. My hon. friend seems to think it would be a proper thing for the minister when he advertised publicly for tenders for dredging work and did not get any which according to the judgment of the chief engineer were reasonable, to refuse to accept tenders and not go on with the work.

Mr. BENNETT. Did the chief engineer certify when the price was 14 cents that it was reasonable and also when it was 19 cents?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, and my chief engineer was of opinion and so advised me that in a large number of these contracts last year the work was being done not only at a reasonable price, but at a lower price than we could ever expect to get contractors to tender for the work at.

Mr. BENNETT. Rot.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Another remarkable instance was at Port Burwell, where there were four tenders this year. Bertram and Company tendered at 39 cents, Finn at 43

Mr. PUGSLEY.

cents, Horton at 44 cents and Manley at 45 cents, all most reliable contractors, men of large experience and of the highest reputation.

Mr. BENNETT. Horton included?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Horton included.

Mr. BENNETT. You should read the evidence in the East Elgin trial to a man of that name who took part in marking ballots.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I feel very sorry that my hon. friend has this unfortunate disposition to find fault.

Mr. BENNETT. I say truthful things about men of the stamp of Horton whose reputation is known in Ontario.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I cannot help thinking that when my hon. friend retires from the House and gets home in the silence of his bedroom he must regret the disagreeable things he has said because there is no lasting pleasure in that sort of thing.

Mr. BENNETT. The minister may hear some things of himself if he does not keep a little bridle on his unruly tongue.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I have heard a great many things about myself and very nasty things in my lifetime, and there is no man living who can say anything against me that I should be ashamed or afraid to hear, no man living.

I was explaining that at Port Burwell there were four tenders, and the lowest tender this year was 39 cents, while last year the work was done at 15½ cents. Our information is that the contractor was losing money upon that contract last year. I need not go through all the others, but I will take the case of the Thames. There there were four tenders, the Bertram Company at 24 cents, Horton at 22 cents Healy at 23 cents and Manley at 20 cents. Last year that work was done at 13 cents.

The total result, as near as I am able to figure it out, taking in Ontario and Quebec, of the calling for new tenders—and I regret that this should be the case—has been to cost the Dominion somewhere between \$175,000 and \$200,000 more than it would have if I had extended the contracts and insisted on the work going on at the same price as that in force last year.

Mr. BENNETT. Why did you not extend it?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I have already explained the reason. I take, of course, the full responsibility, but I have been obliged to assume that responsibility under the circumstances I have mentioned. I felt as I have said, that the contracts gave me full power to extend them, and I felt in view of the low price at which the work was being done that it would have been the part of wisdom for my hon. friend who has been