

greatly to the public interest if creosoting works were established, that treating adds very much to the life of railway ties, and that it would bring into use for ties many varieties of timber which, when not treated, are not suitable for that purpose.

Mr. BARKER. The minister says that this vote has been passed year after year. What has been the experience heretofore? Has the minister tried this timber?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. BARKER. With what result?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Good.

Mr. BARKER. The minister has that from the officers of his department?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. DANIEL. The creosoted timber has been used by the Department of Public Works, I understand, for building piers which are subject to the action of the teredo worm, and not for building on land?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, only to protect the wood from the teredo.

Mr. A. McCALL. The American railway companies, I understand, are using creosoted timber to a certain extent. Has the minister inquired with a view to ascertaining whether he has been paying a fair or an excessive price?

Mr. PUGSLEY. There is pretty keen competition between the agents of the several companies which are dealing in creosoted timber, and the instructions to the engineers are to obtain material at the lowest possible price, and always to get prices from the different agents.

Mr. A. McCALL. By tender?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes—not by advertising in the newspapers, but by asking agents for their prices.

Harbours and rivers—Ontario—Brockville—reconstruction of superstructure of dock on south side of Tunnel bay, \$9,500.

Mr. PUGSLEY. We have been urged very strongly by the town of Brockville to make this improvement, and it seems a desirable work in the public interest.

Mr. SPROULE. Is it to be of stone?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is not entirely of stone. The top is to be of concrete, but the foundation under the water will be of timber. It is a public dock. Part of it is owned by the Canadian Pacific railway and part by the Crown, and we propose to have

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it all vested in the Crown. We have been urged strongly by representatives of the council and board of trade to construct this work, and an influential delegation was here not long ago urging it.

Mr. SPROULE. I am not aware of any docks being built upon wood.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The chief engineer tells me that the wharfs at Montreal and Quebec are built upon a wooden substructure and then from a little below the water line they are carried up with concrete.

Burlington channel piers—reconstruction, \$40,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is to continue the work of reconstructing in concrete the wooden superstructures of the north and south piers of the Burlington channel. We have been urged to continue this work, but we hesitated to do so last year because of the state of the revenue. The work is urgently needed in order to prevent considerable injury to the harbour. Of this \$40,000, \$15,000 is a revote. In 1908-9 we spent \$34,000, in 1909-10, \$36,000.

Mr. BARKER. I would like to know what the whole expenditure in connection with this work has been, and will be. I understand that there has been a good deal of bad work done there.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I have not heard of that.

Mr. BARKER. I have heard so. I understand that the amount appropriated is not more, and has not been more, than was necessary for the work, but the money has not been judiciously expended. I would like to know what the original estimate of this work was, and what it is going to cost.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The estimate submitted by the chief engineer included reconstruction of wooden superstructure, \$37,500; reconstruction of wooden superstructure in concrete, \$15,000; reconstruction of wooden superstructure of north pier in concrete, \$49,900; superintendence and contingencies, \$8,600. Total estimate cost, \$111,000 of which there has been expended during the two last years \$70,000 leaving a balance of \$40,000.

Mr. BARKER. Will that \$40,000 complete all the work that was originally contemplated?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The chief engineer tells me it is supposed to complete the work.

Mr. BARKER. Has the chief engineer made an estimate that \$40,000 will do all the work originally contemplated?