

Mr. CROCKET. It is not intended to complete it during the present year?

Mr. PUGSLEY. We could not do so unless we asked an item in the supplementary estimates. We may possibly do that.

Mr. CROCKET. I would like to know from the minister if it is the intention to continue Thos. O. Murray as the foreman of this work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is too far ahead to determine as to that. We shall not determine it until toward the spring when we make our preparations for continuing the work.

Mr. CROCKET. The reason I ask is that, Thomas O. Murray, I have no hesitation in saying, perpetrated a fraud upon the public treasury as conductor of that work. We have the proof of the fact that Mr. Murray, when conductor of the work, sent in a bill to the government for 60,000 feet of logs in the name of John Dumas, at \$12 per 1,000 feet, half of which he purchased from Richard O'Leary, of Richibucto—

Mr. PUGSLEY. I call my hon. friend (Mr. Crocket) to order, Mr. Chairman. If the committee have finished and made their report, he can discuss the matter, but while it is before the Public Accounts Committee, I submit, it is not in order to discuss it here. Certainly it is very inconvenient to attempt to discuss it here for we have not the papers. I ask your ruling, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CROCKET. Allow me to say, Mr. Chairman, that if the minister takes that ground the item will have to stand.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. It is a well known rule that when a matter is under consideration of a committee by action of the House, it is not in order, in other proceedings, to discuss the procedure of that committee. I have no official knowledge that any such matter is before the committee. The hon. member (Mr. Crocket) has not proceeded far enough in his remarks to enable me to judge whether they are pertinent to the question or not, so I do not, for the present, rule him out of order.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am ready to be guided by the statement of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Crocket) himself. If he says that the matter is not before the Public Accounts Committee I will take his statement. But my information is that it is before the committee and the committee has not reported upon it.

Mr. CROCKET. That does not debar me from making this statement—that Mr.

Mr. PUGSLEY.

Murray, the conductor of this work, sent in a bill to the Public Works Department in the name of John Dumas for 60,000 feet of lumber—

Mr. PUGSLEY. Order. I will take your ruling upon the matter, Mr. Chairman. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Crocket) admits that the matter is before the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. So far as I have heard the hon. gentleman (Mr. Crocket) I am not yet in a position to rule his remarks out of order. But I would ask him to make his remarks as relevant as possible and to bring them to bear upon the item before the committee.

Mr. CROCKET. It is this very item that I am discussing. I say, in the presence and hearing of the minister, that Mr. Murray, the conductor, or foreman of this public work, has perpetrated a fraud—a criminal offence upon the government of the country—that he sent in a fictitious bill to the Public Works Department for lumber for which he paid only \$6 and \$7 a thousand, and for which he received \$12 a thousand. I am simply astonished at the statement of the minister that, having that knowledge—as he must have it; as I know he has it—he will not be able to determine for a year or two whether Mr. Murray is to be continued—

Mr. PUGSLEY. I did not say a year or two, I said a month or two.

Mr. CROCKET. I understood that the work was to go on—

Mr. PUGSLEY. It will be during the spring of the present year.

Mr. CROCKET—that he would not be able to determine until the work was to be resumed whether this man was to be continued. I ask members of this House what they think of this government employing men capable of such conduct as that? I make this statement now so that the minister will understand that he takes the full responsibility if he is going to allow this kind of fraud to be continued in the province of New Brunswick. This is the same Thos. O. Murray who bought the 'Richibucto wharf, the 'sawdust wharf' which has been mentioned, at \$700, and immediately turned it over to the Public Works Department for \$5,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. My hon. friend (Mr. Crocket) certainly will not help his cause, as a man never helps any cause by distorting the facts. He has made the statement that Mr. Thomas O. Murray immediately turned over this wharf to the government for \$5,000. That, Sir, is absolutely incorrect. It is true—although it is out of order to refer to what has taken place in the Pub-