

but it seemed that a great deal more than the amount of the contract price had been paid. The depth of water was to have been 15 feet and the width of the channel 200 feet, whereas the depth of water, at low tide, was only 12 feet, and the width was 60 feet instead of 200 feet, besides the pier being 135 feet shorter than was provided for by the contract. The original price of the contract was \$57,000, and taking the rates for the reduction it would have been brought down to about \$51,000 which they should have received for the whole job. Last session a few days before the House closed, after these payments were made, and the returns were in, the hon. the Premier had passed this item of \$1,600 in the Supplementary Estimates at two o'clock in the morning, when everybody was falling asleep. This was the way in which the people's money went. He had protested against it then, and to this day he could not tell what had become of this \$1,600. The hon. the Minister of Public works had failed to explain the matter in any shape or form. The hon. gentleman would not even condescend to answer. He wished to know where this money had gone to. He had had the figures in his possession long before the Supplementary Estimates were passed. Deducting these \$1,600, \$88,451 were left as having been paid up to that time last year. Without making the allowance that should be made for the two year's interest, for the time during which this man had his money before the work was done, and for the difference between dredging in fifteen and two feet of water—it took twice as much a foot in deep water as it did on the beach—he figured that this man got \$32,450 more than his contract justified the Government in giving him—independent of these extra charges which brought the amount up to \$40,000. This arrangement was made with the late Minister of Militia (Mr. Vail), in Truro, before the last election in Truro. He maintained—and he challenged the Government to refute these figures—that this man, according to these papers, obtained \$32,000 for which no certificate from any engineer was shown, though such certificates had been repeatedly asked

for. It might be naturally asked, why should the Premier of this Dominion pay away money in this manner without any real reason; but when they remembered the circumstances that had taken place, that this contractor was in difficulty, that he had written a long letter to the Minister of Public Works, at the time, begging as a favour to be let off and to have the work reduced, though he never hinted that he should not be paid for what he did not do, and that the engineer consented to this being done, the matter took a serious aspect. This man was in difficulties, and the Government were in difficulty as to getting a member from Cape Breton, and the late Minister of Militia had admitted on the floor of Parliament that he had consulted with the hon. the Minister of Public Works in this relation, and that he had gone down to Cape Breton with the consent and knowledge of the hon. the Premier to make this arrangement—that the work should be taken hurriedly off this man's hands in any shape. These were the facts of the case. What a position it was for a member of the Government, the Premier knowing the facts and difficulties of the case, to go down and negotiate with this contractor. The moment the election was lost the Government paid this man the people's money, and let him finish the work in any shape or form. He (Mr. Campbell) had applied for these papers repeatedly, but he could not obtain them. He wished to know how this money was paid; in one lump or how. His object was to show that this money had been paid when it should not have been paid; and to this evidence he and the House and the country were entitled. He wanted the day and date for each payment, and the engineer's certificate for each payment; and, after bringing these charges before the House last year, what answer did he receive? The hon. the Premier would not reply to him at all, but the hon. member for Cumberland, having put the matter pretty strongly, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mackenzie) said:

“The foundation of the pier of the full length was laid, but it appeared that it was destroyed to a considerable extent by a