

when engaging in the erection of large buildings or other important works of unusual cost go beyond their own staffs and employ specialists who have been successful in the particular class of work called for, as the Grand Trunk Railway have done in calling in one of the leading architects of New York to design their new hotel in Ottawa, which it is desired to make one of the finest on the continent. It must be remembered in justification of such a course that an error of judgment on the part of the designer of such a structure might cost hundreds or thousands of times the amount of money expended for the services of such an engineer or architect.

Mr. BERGERON. Was this gentleman not engaged before Mr. Hyman became minister?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not for the St. Andrews locks.

Mr. BERGERON. He was for the Quebec harbour?

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is another matter; that was for the plans of some works at Montreal in connection with the harbour improvements but the department did not pay his claim in regard to that and a suit is now pending in the Exchequer Court.

Mr. BERGERON. Is it the same man?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is the same gentleman who was employed by Mr. Tarte in connection with some very large works at Montreal.

Mr. BERGERON. I understand that case is now before the courts.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, but that has nothing to do with the matter. I find here a memorandum from Mr. Hyman accepting Mr. Vautelet's offer that he should be paid 5 per cent on the cost of the work. This matter has engaged my attention since I have been minister, I have been applied to for the payment of the balance of this claim; I have the matter under consideration and no payment will be made without an order in council. The matter will be fully considered. I have not employed any outside architects or engineers, and I am not aware of any outside engineer being now in the employ of the department for special work; of course in saying this I do not include what we call the non-permanent staff.

Mr. BENNETT. I am not aware of the nature of the work at the St. Andrew's dam as I have not seen the plans, and I quite agree that on a work of that kind, where there are special difficulties, it would not be out of the way to call in an outside engineer. But let me review this gentleman's whole connection with the department. In the first place the department employs him

Mr. PUGSLEY.

for some sheds at Montreal. I do not know the ground of the action now pending, whether he was not properly hired by the department or whether the services rendered were insufficient. While I am willing to admit that there might be cases where the department should call in a gentleman from outside to give the benefit of his experience, it seems to me that the people of Canada will wonder why, we have to go outside the department and obtain the services of a gentleman at an expense of \$12,250 for the preparation of plans for ordinary freight sheds at Quebec.

Now, I do not know what was the character of these sheds, but I suppose they were plain and of structural iron, like other freight sheds in different parts of the country. It must be a matter of wonderment to the public that the Department of Public Works declares, in effect, that its chief engineer is not capable of putting up an ordinary iron shed. You can hardly go into any little town in the province of Ontario where you will not see a skating rink or a large hall which has been erected by a local architect. And here we have an ordinary iron framework shed, and the department admits that it has not an engineer capable of preparing the plans for such a structure, but must go to an outsider and pay him \$12,250 to prepare plans. I have heard something of the connection of this engineer with the Public Works Department. That he was a friend of the former minister (Mr. Tarte) goes without saying. And his claim is of such a nature that the department for reasons of its own—but reasons well known to the public—have refused to pay it, and here we find him a creditor of this Dominion to the amount of \$12,250 in respect of these sheds erected in Quebec. It is now about six o'clock, and perhaps the minister may be able to give us this evening a description of the sheds re-erected in Quebec.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I could not give a description of the sheds erected in Quebec. I think they were very elaborate in design, but they were not erected.

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Pugsley) might give us the proportions of these buildings.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I will try to do that.

Mr. BENNETT. Even though we may have no great technical knowledge of this subject, we may be able to reach some conclusion as to whether the department should have gone outside to employ an architect or engineer to design this building. Perhaps the minister will give us the facts.

Mr. PUGSLEY. • Yes.

At six o'clock, House took recess.