

with provisions, machinery and passengers, and it was a cause of the greatest moment that they should find their way up the Rainy River. They, however, found it impossible to make the trip. I do not know whether the hon. Minister has been dilatory during the past season or not, but I wish to put before him, as strongly as I can, that the development of the district is absolutely dependent on the speedy betterment of Rainy River.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. That work has given me great trouble and anxiety. Mr. Lafleur made a survey some years ago. Last year I sent Mr. Fraser there with a view to carrying out the necessary improvements. The engineer has reported that by dredging and removing rocks, we might possibly decrease the depth of water instead of increasing it. It was suggested that the most feasible system would be to build a dam, but when the cost was estimated at \$100,000, I thought the matter over a little. This morning a deputation from Rat Portage waited on me and made representations similar to those put forward by my hon. friend. I resolved to send Mr. Fraser back there, and he will leave to-morrow. He will have in his service practical men, and he has instructions to make everything in his power so as to give the best service possible during the season.

MR. FOSTER. Is he going to make another examination and report, and to further dilly dally? These miserable engineers are continually reporting, and one tears up the report of his predecessor. A man with a business head and possessing authority and power could put the matter into shape at an early day; but the engineers report and report, and every one, as I said, tears up the report of his predecessor. The Minister will have to decapitate a lot of the engineers, and send up some men with common sense and have the work done.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have seen Mr. Fraser and given him instructions. I think he will be able to give good navigation to a depth of four or five feet during the season. I may add that the deputation, which was composed of leading men, agreed to the measures I suggested.

Owen Sound Harbour—Dredging, &c.... \$10,000

MR. SPROULE. What is the condition of the work?

MR. WALLACE. Why is there only \$10,000 in the Estimates in this case when \$30,000 appears for Collingwood harbour?

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I think possibly the Supplementary Estimates may supply the deficiency.

MR. WALLACE. I know something of the promises made by the Government in re-

gard to this work at Owen Sound, and I do not think they are fulfilling those promises. Perhaps, however, the Minister of Customs is satisfied with the amount.

MR. SPROULE. I do not see any item in the Estimates for the dry dock promised at last election, which work was to give employment to so many poor men. I remember walking with some friends of hon. gentlemen opposite who were speaking of the active time that would prevail while building the dock, and the number of men that would be employed. I have been watching from year to year to see if any item would appear in the Estimates for this purpose, and the people of Owen Sound have been watching, too. Could the Minister of Customs state when this item is likely to be forthcoming?

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The Minister of Customs has enough to do looking after his own department, and I think I can attend to the public works. I quite recognize the great importance of building a dry dock on the lake. The hon. gentleman should not, however, insist on the Government spending too much money at one time. We require to do the right thing at the right time.

MR. SPROULE. If the hon. gentleman had taken the money spent in the elections and expended it on a dry dock, it would have been built years ago.

MR. HAGGART. What is the cost per cubic yard of the work at Collingwood and Owen Sound. I see at Collingwood it is about 55 cents per cubic yard.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. For the Collingwood work we gave a straight contract to Boon & Armstrong, of Toronto. At Owen Sound we are dredging with hired dredges, as was done under the late Administration.

MR. SPROULE. Hiring dredges by the hour?

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes, as before.

MR. SPROULE. Who own the dredges there now?

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The Owen Sound Dredging and Construction Company.

MR. SPROULE. Does the Minister know the dredges that are employed?

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I do not remember the name of the dredge, it belongs to the company. It is the same dredge that was hired under the late Government and has a capacity of 1,000 yards.

MR. SPROULE. There are two dredges belonging to that company, No. 4 and No. 9, and if you are hiring No. 4 dredge at \$20 an hour you are throwing away money.