

the hands of these parties. I have always regarded that as a sound reason. Another reason given for refusing the lowest tender was that the parties did not put up a deposit as a guarantee that they would do the work faithfully. In this case, there was no deposit put up, and you have not even the other guarantee that the parties had the experience and the means of doing it. The Postmaster General has followed out carefully the principle of giving everything by public tender. He told this House that he cancelled nearly 300 contracts for carrying the mails, and he gave as a justification for his action that public competition had not been invited. If the principle is a correct one as regards the carrying of the mails, the contracts for which amount to about \$100 or \$200 each, it surely ought to be adhered to in a contract involving an expenditure of \$30,000 or \$40,000. The country is fully impressed with the opinion that when a large amount of work has to be done, tenders should be called for, and when the hon. Minister departs from that principle without having any special reason for doing so, he is taking a course which the country will not justify. How much has been spent up to the present on this work

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Since confederation \$1,073,000, and before confederation about \$25,000.

Mr. SPROULE. What amount will be required to finish it, and how long will it take?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The total estimate is about \$80,000 outside of the groins that we had to build last year. We built two or three groins last year and will have to build two or three more this year. They will cost about \$1,800 each. We have had a great deal of trouble in strengthening the two jetties, which were unfortunately built in quick sand, and that is the reason why we have been obliged to do so much dredging. We were obliged to dredge around the west pier because it is tumbling down, but my officers have found out a way of strengthening the work.

Mr. HAGGART. There was \$20,000 expended last year?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. When these estimates were made the work was under contract to Mr. Luke Madigan for \$50,999. Mr. Madigan did not progress very favourably, but we allowed him to go on and helped him as much as we could. But he ultimately gave up the work, and that is the position to-day. When my estimates were prepared, he had not given up the work and we estimated we would spend \$23,000 this year, but we have spent much less.

Mr. HAGGART. Then you have not asked for tenders to finish it?

Mr. SPROULE.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am glad the hon. gentleman has given me the opportunity to explain. When Mr. Madigan's tender was received, the chief engineer told me that the work could not be done for this amount. Mr. Madigan gave the Canadian Pacific Company as a reference, he having done work for them. After I had received information about Mr. Madigan I gave him the contract, in spite of the protest of my chief engineer who said that the tender was too low to enable the contractor to carry out his work. I visited the work that was under contract, and finding that it was not going on as rapidly as it should, I remonstrated with him. A few months after he gave up the work. I have letters from him dated 19th March and 23rd March, and also a certificate from his medical adviser, which I will show my hon. friend if he desires it.

Mr. HAGGART. No.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Poor Madigan is not in a position to carry out any work now. This is a case where the lowest tender should not have been accepted.

Mr. HAGGART. How much has the hon. Minister paid on progress estimates? And has the department become responsible for payment for materials bought and for labour?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The total payments made to Mr. Madigan were \$5,078. To assist Mr. Madigan in getting the material we became responsible for \$1,963.63, making a total of \$7,041.63. The value of the work finished by the contractor is \$8,917.20. He has left materials on the ground to the value of \$1,007.25. We have also security of \$3,101, a total of \$13,025.45. So, we are fully protected. He has left the work with \$5,984 to his credit and we have claims for wages, \$1,148.82, and for materials, \$253. There are other accounts, but we are not responsible.

Mr. SPROULE. I can tell the hon. Minister that there are some accounts for labour that are not yet in.

Mr. HAGGART. The appropriation for 1897-98 was \$53,000. The hon. gentleman only asks for \$33,000 this year. This, I suppose, means that \$20,000 has been expended.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My hon. friend must not forget that these are our Main Estimates and were made some time ago, at a time when Mr. Madigan had the contract and we thought he would continue. Of course we will not pay that now.

Mr. HAGGART. I shall probably understand the hon. gentleman if he will tell me what he estimates the work will cost now.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I really cannot say. Mr. Madigan tendered