

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I am not able to say definitely; if he is not at work now it is expected he will resume in the near future. Work was discontinued during the winter.

Mr. VENIOT: With the understanding that one item is to remain open, say the Tracadie item, the remainder might pass.

Item stands.

Prince Edward Island

Belle river harbour—breakwater repairs, \$1,500.
 China point—wharf repairs, \$2,000.
 Cranberry—wharf repairs, \$2,400.
 Graham's pond—breakwater repairs, \$1,000.
 Grand river (north)—wharf repairs, \$2,000.
 Harbours and rivers generally—repairs and improvements, \$15,000.
 Hickey's—wharf repairs, \$2,000.
 Lambert's (Montague)—wharf repairs, \$1,500.
 Miminigash harbour—breakwater repairs—under construction, \$1,000.
 North lake harbour—breakwater repairs, \$1,700.
 Pownal—wharf repairs, \$2,200.
 Rustico harbour—breakwater repairs, \$2,700.
 Sturgeon—wharf repairs, \$2,500.
 Summerside—wharf repairs—under contract, \$8,000.
 Tignish harbour—repairs to breakwater, \$5,000.—Total, \$50,500.

Mr. MacLEAN: I would like to ask the minister for some information with regard to the revote for the wharf at Summerside, Prince Edward Island. Would the minister give the names of the tenderers and the amounts of the tenders?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The amount of the contract was \$7,380. The work under contract consists of rebuilding the eastern face of the pierhead for a length of 349 feet, with creosoted piling, and so on. Tenders were called for in July, 1930, and the contract was awarded on September 17, 1930. The work was not proceeded with until late, and it has not been completed. The contractor is H. M. Downing and the amount of the contract is \$7,380. The date for completion is February 1, 1931, which has been extended to July 1 1931.

Mr. MacLEAN: Would the minister give the other tenders which were submitted?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The following tenders were received, four in all: J. E. Campbell, Summerside, \$7,380; W. R. Maynard, \$7,472; Everett McLeod and Duncan McKenzie, French River, \$8,280; Henry J. Phillips and P. G. Clarke, Summerside, \$8,770.

Mr. MacLEAN: It was intimated, when tenders were called for, that J. H. Campbell's was the lowest, and I think he was notified to

that effect. Later on the contract was transferred from Campbell to Maynard, and I should like to know how Mr. Downing came into the picture. It appears that Mr. Campbell was notified that his tender was the lowest; Mr. Maynard then took over the contract and sent in his deposit cheque, and it was understood that he would proceed with the work. He was ready to proceed and was waiting for orders, but those orders never came through. What I fail to understand is this: If it is the declared policy of the department to accept the lowest tender in every case, how was it that Mr. Downing's tender was not accepted in the first place?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I am very glad my hon. friend has mentioned this, because he made a statement some days ago when this matter was up in connection with the supplementary estimates. At that time the information was not available, but I have it here now. Under date of August 5, 1930, authority was granted to accept the lowest tender, namely that of J. E. Campbell of Summerside, for the work mentioned. Under date of August 5, the hon. member (Mr. MacLean) wired the deputy minister of Public Works as follows:

Request from Campbell on July 29 to withdraw tender for railway wharf Summerside wire if request has been granted.

To which the following reply was made by the deputy minister under date of August 5:

Department can allow Campbell to withdraw tender railway wharf Summerside only provided deposit is forfeited or whatever portion thereof necessary to make up amount of next lowest tender which is seventy-four hundred seventy-two dollars fifty cents if second tenderer now willing to take contract at price of his bid.

On August 7, Mr. Campbell wired that he had arranged with the next lowest tenderer, namely, W. R. Maynard, Northam, Prince Edward Island, to take over contract at his figures, and stated he was forwarding his, Mr. Maynard's, deposit cheque. The hon. member for Prince Is. wired on August 7 to the same effect and was advised that the Campbell cheque would be returned as soon as the next lowest tenderer's deposit was received. Mr. Campbell's security cheque of \$738 was returned to him on August 22, 1930; there being no interest as it was sent to the Department of Finance on July 31, 1930. Mr. Maynard's cheque for \$738 was received and sent to the accountant on August 15, 1930, and to the Finance department on August 21, 1930. As no action was taken upon Mr. Maynard's offer to take over the contract, the returning of his security