

tells us that outside it is to be eighteen feet, and then when he comes inside the harbour, he is to give a basin of twenty feet deep. A little while ago, the Minister so to speak, poked fun at me on my knowledge of engineering. To that, my answer is, that I do not assume to know anything about engineering, but I think it would be sagacious advice to the Minister and perhaps to his department, to have the deep water outside and the shallow water inside.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I said that.

Mr. BENNETT. Let me tell the Minister something. Collingwood harbour is at the bottom of a bay which has a sweep of over 100 miles from the North-west when the wind blows in that direction, and it is better that the outside should have deep water than the inside.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I said that surely. If I did not, I must have made a slip of the tongue.

Mr. BENNETT. I am glad that the deep water is to be at the outside. But if the Minister is not going to avail himself of the joint contribution of the Grand Trunk Company and the town of Collingwood of \$25,000, it must be that he anticipates an expenditure of more than \$150,000 to make a good job of the whole work, and it is evident that he is going to hold that in reserve. As I said at the outset, I am not opposing this grant on the ground of the amount involved, because I believe the town of Collingwood ought to receive sympathy and consideration from the Dominion Government. I quite agree with the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) that it is an enterprising town; and if Parliament is to be asked to assist the town, it should be told what is to be the extent of the assistance, and then it will know whether it should grant the assistance or not. No other town would be accorded such a very large grant for an uncompleted work, particularly under the circumstances. It is simply making a rival harbour to two harbours nearly adjoining it, which I take it is due to the great influence of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) with the Minister of Public Works. I have no objection to a grant being made to help the town of Collingwood, because I believe it should be helped. But it is the duty of the Minister to give Parliament the details of what expenditure he is prepared to assume for the town. The House will then be responsible, if it undertakes an expenditure of over a quarter of a million dollars for that harbour.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have said over and over again that I have entered into a contract for \$144,000. I have said that there is no other agreement, and that I do not anticipate any other ex-

penditure, and have not been requested to make any other.

Mr. BENNETT. Then the hon. gentleman has shifted his ground.

Mr. McCARTHY. I am obliged to my hon. friend from the adjoining riding for the compliment he has paid to my influence; but I am afraid that it is not altogether deserved. This work was undertaken when I certainly had not any influence with the preceding Administration, for the purpose, I think, of weakening any little influence I might have in my constituency. Most urgent and pressing efforts were made to have this work undertaken, and I certainly had not a word to say against it. But I found matters in this position when the Government changed, that the work had been proposed, that tenders had been called for, that the tenders were then lying in the Public Works Department, and that one of the tenders, since accepted and embodied in a contract, was for \$144,000. I found the present Minister of Public Works hesitating as to whether, with the information he had from his engineer of the cost of the work, it would be safe or prudent to let it for that lesser sum. But ultimately, after full inquiry and investigation, the Minister became satisfied that he could in the public interest safely make a contract for \$144,000, being some \$60,000 less than the estimated cost. As I understand the matter the proposition was that this work would be a completed work, and that when this contract is performed nothing more will be required for the Collingwood harbour, so far as can be seen at present. In consideration of that, the town was willing, with the assistance of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, to contribute \$25,000. The arrangement I understood, was that whatever the cost should be the town was willing to pay \$25,000; and if the cost is \$144,000, the country will have to pay that amount less the \$25,000, or to be strictly accurate, that portion of the \$25,000 which has not yet been expended. During the spring of 1896 the necessities of the harbour were such that the then Minister of Public Works authorized the corporation to expend \$2,000 or \$3,000 on work required to be done immediately, on the understanding that that sum was to be credited to the \$25,000.

Mr. BENNETT. Since the Minister has made the further statement now that this is to be regarded as a complete and total work, and that he will not come to Parliament in a future session and ask for a large further grant, I have only to say that it will be a matter of deep regret and mortification to the people of the town of Collingwood, who have been led to understand, as I gather from conversations with gentlemen from that town and from reading the files of their newspapers, that they were to have a work of a large and a substan-