

there is Collingwood harbour, \$30,000. I notice that Port Stanley has \$10,000 for assistance towards harbour improvements and \$11,000 repairs to piers and dredging also. I should like to know if any portion of this \$60,000 is to be spent there?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Not one cent.

Mr. INGRAM. Last year \$50,000 was spent dredging Quebec and Ontario. What proportions was spent in each?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Of the \$50,000 spent last year up to the end of December, \$17,169 was spent in Quebec and \$24,912 in Ontario.

Mr. INGRAM. This amount was for the work done by the Government dredges?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes, and by dredges hired.

Mr. INGRAM. I find in the Auditor General's Report that the hon. gentleman is paying \$8 per hour for dredging. Is it not a fact that this can be done for \$6 or even \$5 per hour? And is it the intention of the hon. Minister to continue paying \$8 per hour?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. We had a long discussion on that point when my hon. friend (Mr. Ingram) was not in the House. I said that in hiring dredges at \$8 per hour, I was following the policy that had been followed in the past. It may be that the system can be improved. After the remarks made in the House I shall go carefully into the question, and I may make improvements for another year.

Mr. INGRAM. I would like to ask further if it is not a fact that when a Government dredge is hired out to a private company or to an individual, the charge made is \$50 a day? Why is it then, that the hon. gentleman is willing to pay \$8 per hour or \$80 per day when he hires a dredge? The inconsistency of the thing is most remarkable to me, for the Government has some very good dredges, probably better than any private dredges they can employ.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I know that when we are applied to by a private corporation or person to do dredging work, we only charge the actual expenditure, and that is the reason why the charge as my hon. friend says, \$50 a day. But I would again remind him that in paying \$8 per hour, I have followed the policy I found established in my department.

Mr. INGRAM. I understand the hon. gentleman to say that he has not an estimate of the dredging he proposes to do in the different harbours of Ontario and Quebec for this sum of \$60,000. I think it would only be fair, at least, to hon. gentlemen on this side, that a statement should be given to the House as to the manner in which that

amount is proposed to be expended in the province of Ontario. We expect a large number of local elections to take place between now and another session, and if it is going to be in the power of the hon. gentleman to expend this money in harbours wherever he chooses for the purpose of promoting the election of his friends, I think it will be a very unfair thing to do. The hon. gentleman has been charged, whether rightly or wrongly, with going round the country and stating to the people that various works were required, and he would do all he could to see that they were made. I think it is only fair that we should know where this money is to be expended before these local elections take place.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. There are many calls made upon us, and I will have to judge of these calls to the best of my ability. My hon. friend is altogether wrong in supposing that I will do this work for political purposes. I never did that, and would not do it. But there is one thing I will certainly do, I will not forget my political friends. When work is required to be done in a good Liberal county, I do not see why I should not do it. My hon. friend reproached me with going into the fair province of Ontario and stating that there were important works to be done there. It is true, I went up there and I was well received, I found a progressive people, and I promised to do what I could to promote their progress.

Mr. INGRAM. I did not charge the hon. gentleman with making this statement, but the public press of the country charged him with doing it. As for myself, I owe many thanks to the hon. gentleman for doing his duty by the constituency I have the honour to represent, where I find he is going to spend \$46,000 in improving a harbour.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that these dredges were let out at \$50 a day.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I said that when a private person came to us and asked for a dredge to repair a wharf, &c., we only charged them the actual working expenses, and sometimes less. That varies according to the size of the dredge, it is usually \$50 or \$60 a day.

Mr. MONK. The Minister has declared his willingness to improve upon the system followed by his predecessors. A valuable improvement would be to come before us every year with a definite programme as to where this dredging is to be done. We are asked to make the Minister the absolute arbiter as to where this \$60,000 shall be spent, we are altogether in the dark what he is going to do with it.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am very sorry I did not make myself understood. So far as Ontario is concerned, I