

matter of dredging was before the committee he made plain his request. The minister now states that his department reports that the work is completed. I prefer to take the statement of my hon. friend who represents the county, and I am very much surprised that the minister should have, when out in the west, allowed this public work to go absolutely unnoticed. Might I ask him what kind of a request it is he requires? He does not say that the work is either necessary or unnecessary, but his sole excuse is that he has not been asked to do anything. Surely that is not a reasonable excuse. For myself, I think it is only fair that, when a request of this kind is made year after year on the floor of the House, the minister should see to it that this work is looked into to learn whether it is in the interest of the public, so that he could say frankly and fairly to the committee whether this further expenditure that is proposed would be in the public interest or not. If the officers have reported on it, I suppose they have said either that the further expenditure is required or that the work is completed in a way to serve the district for whose benefit it is undertaken.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Does not my hon. friend (Mr. Blain) see that he is taking a little different course from that he has hitherto taken in this House? On some occasions when I have been obliged reluctantly to say that I have done a particular work on the recommendation of a certain member of the House, my hon. friend and other hon. members on that side have attacked me, and said that I should take the opinion, not of a member of the House, but of the officials of my department. In this case, I have had the matter looked into, and the officials of my department, who are responsible for the information they give, state that it is not necessary in the public interest to extend the work any further. Under these circumstances, much as I respect my hon. friend (Mr. Staples), much as I would like to meet his views—and he is always so kind that it would be a pleasure to meet his views—yet, I would not be justified in making this further expenditure.

Mr. BLAIN. Does the minister say that I, as a member of the committee, ever said it was not a proper policy to listen to the requests of members of parliament?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I understood the hon. member to say—

Mr. BLAIN. No.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I thought I recollected my hon. friend criticising my action in taking the advice of a member of this House—

Mr. BLAIN. No.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Particularly if he was a friend of the government.

Mr. STAPLES. I do not propose, on this occasion, as on former occasions, to be shunted off by the Minister of Public Works getting up and throwing a little taffy across at me. I am serious in this matter, and the people I represent are serious; and I should appreciate it very much if the minister would be a little more serious than he appears to be in discussing this work. I do not know what is contained in the report of the engineers of which he speaks, but I state as I know them to exist. Until a certain amount of money is spent there, the \$15,000 already spent is absolutely of no use to the public. When the minister says that this is in the interest of the public, I am satisfied that he is not correctly advised. I hope that before the session closes, when further supplementary estimates come down, there will be an appropriation to complete this work.

Mr. PUGSLEY. If the hon. gentleman will be good enough to call on the deputy minister, that gentleman will be glad to show him the report. When on a previous occasion, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Staples) criticised me for not having made this additional expenditure, the report of his remarks was sent to the resident engineer, who then looked into the matter, and reported that in his judgment it would not be in the public interest to expend the money asked for.

Mr. STAPLES. Then, I am to understand that the \$15,000 spent there has been a waste of money?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, I did not say that, but that it is not necessary to spend more.

Mr. STAPLES. If that piece of work is not utilized for any purpose so to speak, the money must be wasted.

Mr. CAMPBELL. It is always interesting to listen to the Minister of Public Works on a question such as this of which he has practically no official knowledge—for, if he had knowledge of it, he would not make the statement he has made. He tells us that his engineer in charge reports to him that no further expenditure is necessary because the work fulfils the object the original expenditure was made for. When I tell you that this wharf—which is within a few miles of the southern edge of my constituency—is unapproachable by a boat carrying any freight, and unapproachable by land, I do not see how the minister can say that the work is meeting the public requirements.

Mr. PUGSLEY. What would the hon. member (Mr. Campbell) suggest in the way of a connection between the wharf and the land?