

**Mr. SPROULE.** Could you not reduce the width of the channel and still give the required depth of water without its costing so much?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** When I say \$100,000, I mean a decreased width. But I have not been able so far to make up my mind. The death of our friend has interfered with the negotiations to a certain extent. When the session is over I may take up the new proposals, but I cannot promise to do so.

**Mr. SPROULE.** What depth will this expenditure give, according to the contract that is now let?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** About 18 feet in the outside part of the harbour, and 16 feet inside.

**Mr. SPROULE.** That is free from the present water level, not from high water mark?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** Quite so, at the lowest water mark.

**Mr. HAGGART.** If I remember rightly, we are to receive a certain sum of money, to be contributed one-half by the Grand Trunk Railway, and the other half by the town of Collingwood for these improvements?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** We have received from the town of Collingwood the sum of \$13,000 for their share of the work up to date.

**Mr. SPROULE.** They were to give \$15,000, were they not, and the Grand Trunk Railway \$10,000?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** The Grand Trunk Railway agreed with the town to give the town \$10,000. It is for the town to settle with the Grand Trunk Railway. So far as we are concerned we have only to deal with the town, and they have been willing to pay their share, and as I have just said, have paid \$13,000 already.

**Mr. SPROULE.** Have you any knowledge whether the town is getting that from the Grand Trunk Railway?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** That I cannot say; that does not concern us.

**Mr. SPROULE.** Did you make the provision that the town, in entering into the contract, were to furnish \$25,000?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** We have nothing to do with the Grand Trunk Railway, our deal is a straight deal with the town.

**Mr. SPROULE.** Have you made provision that in the event of this expenditure going on and you furnishing a certain depth of water, the town shall give \$25,000?

**Mr. TARTE.**

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** Certainly, that is our agreement.

**Mr. FOSTER.** When do you propose to have it finished?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** The chief engineer tells me it will take two more seasons to complete. The work is going on in a very satisfactory manner.

**Mr. WALLACE.** This contract is for \$144,000 to complete. Some further work takes \$100,000 more, as I understand the Minister?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** It has been proposed to us to give an additional depth, and that additional depth would cost over \$100,000.

**Mr. WALLACE.** How much will that give?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** It will give 20 feet. That is all that is proposed in addition.

**Mr. SPROULE.** I would like to say with regard to that harbour that it is a very important one, and if they had the proper depth of water they would do a much larger business than they can do at present. It is always a great hardship to people in any part of Canada when, by their enterprise and knowledge, they prepare to do a large business, and find themselves unable to do it for want of proper accommodation.

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** I quite recognize the great importance of Collingwood harbour, having visited it myself. I am glad to see that the people of that town have given evidence of public spirit in contributing so much money for this work. I shall be only too glad to do everything in my power to help them promote the progress of their town.

**Mr. FOSTER.** Was the work consecutively and diligently looked after last season?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** Yes, no breaks.

**Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.** What was the extent of the work carried out during last season?

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** 37,000 cubic yards were excavated last year; the amount paid was \$20,000.

Rainy River—Improvement of navigable channel ..... \$15,000

**Mr. FOSTER.** No doubt the hon. gentleman is aware of the condition of Rainy River at the present time, and that navigation is practically at a standstill.

**The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.** Yes.

**Mr. FOSTER.** I understand that four or five steamers proceeded to their first trip,