

fiscal year, and for which no provision has as yet been made. I may tell my hon. friend that every one of the dredging contractors in New Brunswick is, so far as I am aware, a political opponent of mine. The Mayes Dredging Company, the Maritime Dredging Company and the Northern Dredging Company, of which Mr. Tennant and Mr. O'Leary are managers, were brought under the control of our Conservative friends and they to-day practically control the dredging business in New Brunswick. The manager of a financial institution which has advanced money to these contractors called my attention to the fact that the Liberals were blocking the estimates and blocking the payment of the money which was due to these gentlemen, and by them due to the bank. I explained that we were not, that this should be provided for in the supplementary estimates, and that if the Government would bring in an amount to meet this expenditure I would only be too happy to do everything I could to expedite its passage. I would say to my hon. friend frankly that these amounts which, according to my information, totalled a few hundred thousand dollars, should be provided for in the supplementary estimates for the current year. I do not think this committee should be asked to make provision for carrying on public works during the coming year until we have discharged our obligations and the obligations of the country for work which has been actually done by the contractors during the current year. Let me take another question; are there or are there not, large amounts of money due to contractors for work already done upon the Transcontinental railway and for which no provision has been made in the supplementary estimates for the current year.

Mr. WHITE: Not to my knowledge. It is possible that contracts have been made in connection with the Transcontinental railway and that there may be some contractors who are waiting for the necessary certificates upon the presentation of which they will receive payment. But I am not aware that large sums are held up improperly. I understand my hon. friend to suggest that that the members of the dredging companies had changed from Liberals to Conservatives?

Mr. PUGSLEY: Yes.

Mr. WHITE: Does my hon. friend say that all the members of the dredging companies in his time were Liberals and, if so, why? I am surprised to learn that they were all Liberals and my hon. friend rather shocks me by the suggestion that they have changed their memberships to Conservatives, because, by imputation they were all Liberals before.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I will be very glad to give my hon. friend the information. In the city of St. John there were two Liberals who were interested in dredging. There was another gentleman who was a little bit variable—generally speaking a Conservative, and sometimes a little inclined towards the Liberal party. But after the election and, indeed, just before the election, there was no question about his being a Conservative. Since the election I may say that the dredging business has been entirely under the control of ardent supporters of the Government. Upon the Miramichi there was a large company controlled by the Messrs. Loggie—no relation of the hon. member for Northumberland. These gentlemen are very keen merchants, worth a great deal of money, if report is correct, but they have never taken any active part in politics. Since the election of 1911, very active Conservatives bought out the dredging company which was controlled by the Messrs. Loggie and, as appears from the records of this House, in an answer kindly given by the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers), when Messrs. Tennant, O'Leary and others bought out Messrs. Loggie, who had a contract for dredging in the Miramichi at 11 cents per cubic yard, they at once applied to the Government to be allowed to cancel their contract and forfeit their deposit of about \$3,500. They were permitted to do so, tenders were invited for this work and these same gentlemen, whose contract was cancelled and who were allowed to forfeit a deposit of \$3,500, tendered for the work again and got it at twenty cents per cubic yard, or a difference of nine cents per cubic yard. I think that, if I remember the figures correctly, they would forfeit about \$3,500 and they would make an additional profit of \$40,000 or \$50,000 out of the Government. My hon. friend (Mr. White) is surprised to find that Liberals have been engaged in dredging under the late Government. What does he think of that? That was done when the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) was Minister of Public Works. I do not want to attack the late Minister of Public Works and I do not want to attack the present Minister of Public Works, because he is not responsible, but what I do say is that the controlling spirits in the Conservative party in New Brunswick who have brought about that operation, under which there is an absolute steal from the treasury of this country of somewhere between \$40,000 and \$50,000, certainly do not deserve very much consideration from this Government. Notwithstanding that these gentlemen were all Conservatives, as I have said, the manager of a certain banking institution called my attention to the fact that there was a large