

Mr. DANIEL. Will this enlarge the old work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, we are building a little to one side. This is a new work.

Mr. BARKER. There will be a contract?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. DANIEL. Has the contract been put up for tender?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Upon the vote for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1909, plans and specifications were prepared and tenders were recalled for the work. I decided to award the contract to the lowest tenderer. Then, owing to the depression which came and the declining revenues, I decided to let the construction stand over, and so informed the contractor. I am inclined to think it would be fair now not to call for new tenders, but to give the contract to the lowest tenderer.

Mr. DANIEL. Who is he?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Mr. John E. Kane, a very reliable contractor.

St. John—to provide for the purchase and improvement of property for wharfs for the accommodation of government vessels (a vote for the same amount was taken in 1909-10 under lighthouse and coast service), \$50,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is to purchase property and make improvements so as to give very much needed accommodation to both the Public Works Department and the Marine Department by supplying a place for repairs, for building scows and for making repairs to vessels and buoys.

Mr. DANIEL. I can quite understand that a wharf and property of that kind is very much needed for the government vessels. Can the minister state where this wharf is to be?

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is not yet decided.

Mr. DANIEL. Have there been any negotiations? This item has been in the estimate for two years under another heading.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes. There have been no negotiations, but there have been some suggestions and some offers of property.

Mr. DANIEL. The hon. minister has had offers of property for this purpose?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, there have been offers in a general way. I do not know that prices have been made, but certain properties have been offered.

Mr. DANIEL. Has the hon. minister any objections to say what properties they are?

Mr. PUGSLEY. One which was offered was on the northern side of the harbour. That was offered to the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. PUGSLEY.

Mr. DANIEL. About Hilliard's block?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Somewhere in that vicinity, but that was not in my department. There was a property, where the Maritime Warehousing Company is, offered my department. I am not aware of any other.

Mr. DANIEL. The department has not yet made up its mind as to any definite location?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, there is just the possibility that might be placed in Courtenay bay.

Mr. BARKER. Why should there be any negotiations with the Marine Department?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Because the vote previously made came under the Marine Department items. We are now putting it under Public Works.

Tracadie—improvements and repairs, \$4,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is to provide for repairs.

Mr. CROCKET. Will this complete the work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is expected it will.

Traynor's Cove—wharf, \$2,800.

Mr. PUGSLEY. There is an old provincial government wharf at this point, about 50 feet by 40 feet, built many years ago; but it is beyond repair, and must be removed. This is to build a new wharf to take its place.

Mr. CROCKET. What is the estimated cost of the work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. \$2,800.

To purchase creosoted timber for works in the maritime provinces generally, \$20,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. At present we are obliged to import all this timber from the southern states, or rather it is imported by the agents of the two companies engaged in that work. Quite recently I have been interviewed, as has also the Department of Railways, on the subject of establishing works in the city of St. John for the purpose of creosoting timber for wharfs and for railway ties. It is proposed, I think, to bring the material from Sydney. If we had creosoting works along the line of the Intercolonial railway, I believe that a great deal of birch would be used for railway ties. It has been demonstrated that birch takes the creosoting quite as well as soft timber, and it would give an extra market for birch, of which there are large quantities in New Brunswick. The creosoting adds greatly to the life of the timber. An English company is anxious to obtain a site for the purpose of establishing these works.