

I think I would recommend to my colleagues the contributing of the other half. I do that because it is a private harbour, and might very well be taken hold of in that way and made a public harbour. I may say further that I have requested my chief engineer to see if he could send a dredge there and do a reasonable amount of dredging to give further facilities to vessels to reach the wharfs.

McGregor's creek—renewal of bank protection works at Chatham, \$15,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is under contract.

Mr. CLEMENTS. Is that intended for the piling alone?

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is to renew a section of the bank protection, 88 feet long on the south side of the creek and another section 65 feet long about 400 feet above the bridge. There is also a second contract for sheet piling. On the south side of the creek in the city of Chatham. There is other work the details of which I need not give.

Mr. CLEMENTS. What is the total estimated cost?

Mr. PUGSLEY. \$16,000.

Meaford harbour—improvements, \$30,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is under contract.

Mr. BENNETT. Who are the contractors?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Joseph Battle, of Thorold.

Mr. BENNETT. What is the nature of the work?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It consists of three different classes of work, first, extending the breakwater fifty feet in an easterly direction; second removal of fifty of the L on the east side; third, building a revetment wall of 300 feet in length, and dredging twenty feet below low water level. The estimated cost is \$43,700. There were four tenders received, and the lowest was accepted. This amount I think will complete the work.

Midland and Tiffin harbours—improvements, \$75,000.

Mr. BENNETT. I want to make a few remarks about this work at Midland and Tiffin. Generally, dredging operations in the province of Ontario, and particularly as conducted on the Georgian Bay, have been the scene of the greatest swindling operations that have been carried on in Canada for a number of years and I think I shall be able to prove that by the record. For several years prior to 1906 there was a concern known as the Owen Sound Dredging Company, the stock of which is held practically one-half by A. G. Mackay, local member for North Grey in the legislature of Ontario, the other half being held by Mrs. Horsey, widow of a gentleman who at one time occupied a seat in this House as representative for North Grey. Now,

Mr. PUGSLEY.

having had a contract at Midland for several years prior to 1907, and having two dredges standing in the harbour at Midland at the time tenders were invited in the year 1907 it is rather odd as will be seen by reference to the documents now before the House, that Mr. A. G. MacKay, as representing the Owen Sound Dredging Company, did not tender for the work at Midland. I have in my hand a memorandum from the advertisement which appeared in the Toronto 'Globe' on April 27 and other dates, in which will be seen invitations to tender at a number of different points, and among others at Midland. Now I take the tenders that were received for that year at the town of Midland, and I find that no tender was placed before the Department of Public Works in 1907 by the firm known as the Owen Sound Dredging Company. In the fall of 1906 a dredge was brought to Midland harbour owned by a company known as the Canadian Dredging Company—I think the Canadian Dredging Company is the corporate name. Of that company a gentleman named F. W. Grant, of the town of Midland, a barrister, is the secretary and treasurer. This dredge was there in 1906, and I believe was in the employ of Mr. Mackay engaged on a work which he then had under contract. But it goes without saying according to the public documents before the House, that the Owen Sound Dredging Company, or the Mackay Company as I will call it after this placed no tender before the department for the work at Midland in 1907. But there were two different tenders placed before the department for that work to which I will refer, these were the tenders of the Grant company, and what is known as the Spohn company or the Penetanguishene Company. There was also another work to be performed at Waubashene and for the work at Waubashene the Grant company and the Spohn company placed tenders before the department. The figures are these: The Grant company, fifty-three cents for the general material; and the Spohn company, fifty-seven cents for the general material. As between these it will be seen that the Grant company was lower by four cents than the Spohn company for the Midland work. For the Waubashene work, the tender of the Grant company was eighteen cents for what is known as other material, while the tender of the Spohn Company, or the Penetanguishene Company, was sixteen cents. So that between these two companies, had there been no other tender, the Grant company would have had the work at Midland, and the Spohn company would have had the work at Waubashene. Now I have here in my hands the original tenders brought down by the minister. I may say just here that it is regrettable that year after year we have to witness the same spectacle and I