

Mr. TISDALE. Is that the one that is there now?

Mr. HYMAN. There is one at Port Arthur I believe.

Mr. TISDALE. It is the only one in Canada, I believe, and if anything like 25 cents a yard has been paid it is something monstrous if the description that my hon. friend from Victoria and Haliburton (Mr. Sam. Hughes) gave of the material there is correct. If it is soft material and there is enough of it the outside price would be 5 cents a yard. They could make a fortune at that. If I had 50,000,000, yes, 20,000,000 yards to do I could get it done for 3 or 3½ cents a yard without any trouble. That is why I say that the condition about American dredges should not be passed over without attention being called to it. I need not say that my record is well known in that respect, or that for many years I have believed in protecting everything Canadian so long as it is real protection and not something else under the name of it. I believe therefore, in protecting Canadian dredges if capitalists or others in Canada will provide proper dredges that will do the sort of work that is to be done at reasonable figures. I am surprised that these dredges are not more numerous in Canada. I attribute it to the fact that there is seldom any large amount of work to be done or that there is work of a sufficient quantity to justify their ownership. In this case the only way the public can get this work done is to allow competition with American dredges. If, on the other hand, they can use a modern suction dredge this would have been a good opportunity. The proper thing, it seems to me, is not to attack this work year after year but to adopt a comprehensive plan and carry it to a conclusion. The hon. minister says that the work for which tenders have been asked will only extend over one year, but at the same time it involves an expenditure of \$100,000. The facilities of the nature of those proposed are not sufficient, but if he would have his department make out a specification of this work and invite tenders for the whole of it, permitting any one to bring in a dredge, I am satisfied that the contractor under such circumstances could make a very large profit at one-third of what we have been paying for that dredging there. I say therefore that the department should include American dredges in the advertisement for tenders. We want something more than the protection of Canadian dredges. We want the protection of the public interest, and if as a result of that protection, exorbitant prices are exacted by the class of dredges that are here now for the benefit of the few people owning these dredges, then apply the rule that the Conservative government applied to monopolies. If any article became the subject of a monopoly their rule was to lower the tariff, or if necessary to remove

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it. If that rule were adopted a proper price would be applied to such work as this. This work should be undertaken on a comprehensive plan instead of being done year by year according to the system that the hon. minister has seen fit to introduce for the time being and which has led to the discussion of the extraordinary transaction which is disclosed here. I think therefore it would be well if he would consider in connection with this large work the whole project at one time, and then, if Canadians will not bring in dredges or procure them so as to enable them to do the work at a reasonable price, he should give other dredges a chance to come in. I agree with the remarks of my hon. friend the leader of the opposition in regard to that extraordinary provision which is contained in this advertisement. I cannot see what difference it makes where a man procures his dredge provided he procures it in time to do his work. It is impossible to do the work at such a price as it ought to be done at unless tenderers are allowed to buy and bring in a dredge if they are going to do it this summer. If such a privilege were granted by reason of the largeness of the contract a person could buy a dredge, bring it in and make a profit, at half the price that was paid last year. He could well afford to bring in a dredge and the government would get competition.

Mr. HYMAN. All the work cannot be done with a suction dredge. There is only a portion of the work that can be done with that kind of a dredge. There is to be a more extended plan made of that harbour and we hope to let a contract in such a way that dredges can be built that will be able to do that work at the cheapest possible price.

Mr. WHITE. I think that before this discussion closes we should have a definite statement from the hon. acting Minister of Public Works that he will cause the advertisement calling for these tenders to be extended for at least one month.

Mr. HYMAN. I have twice said that I will see that there is an extension of the advertisement and that I will carefully go over the advertisement and see if there is anything in it that should come out. I do not know that it would be necessary to publish it for thirty days. We will extend it for at least fifteen days and I will consult with the department as to whether there is any necessity for continuing it any longer.

Motion (Mr. Bennett) to adjourn, negatived.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the second reading of Bill (No. 69) to estab-