

Mr. BENNETT: The statement I gave with respect to the cars, with respect to the movement of the cement, the movement of the empty bags, are facts beyond peradventure. The comments I make and the inferences I draw may not be those which others would draw.

Now to show just what has been going on there, it will be recalled that I pointed out that cement went to the Crain work and cement went to Fort Henry, for which it was destined, from the government of Ontario, and that Mr. Drinka hauled it to the work on the Crain building, also being done by the Frid company. In the fall of last year one car of cement at least was purchased and taken to Fort Henry. As to why that should be done I am not at the moment making any observation, but that car was purchased by the Frid Construction Company from the Drury Supply Company—I do not know the exact name—and it went to Fort Henry. Just realize what that means. We have here what the ministers in their answer the other day said was a contract for Fort Henry, and part was done by day work. As a matter of fact these men were working on a cost plus basis, the worst plan in the world for graft at any rate.

Mr. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. BENNETT: I am going to deal with this.

Mr. ROGERS: The worst of it is the statement is incorrect.

Mr. BENNETT: I say the statement is correct.

Mr. ROGERS: Very well, I will let my statement wait and establish it later.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the minister's privilege. Now let me summarize this.

Was the car of cement to which I have referred directed by the government of Ontario for use at Fort Henry?

Was it placed on a siding at Kingston?

Was a portion of it taken to the Crain building, also being constructed by the Frid Construction Company?

Was a portion of it then taken to Fort Henry?

Were the bags, after being emptied of cement at the Crain building, taken to Fort Henry?

Did the Frid Construction Company last fall, after discussions were becoming prevalent, purchase a carload of cement and take it to Fort Henry?

[Mr. I. Mackenzie.]

I have no knowledge as to whether this was in replacement of what had been taken, but Mr. Drinka was the man who hauled both. I have given his address; he is the man who has been doing all this trucking. I want to know where the money of the taxpayers of this country went with respect to that work at Fort Henry, and I want to know whether it is true that this was a cost plus job and not a day work job as was stated in answer to a question asked in this house. Everyone knows that when you spend a sum like \$100,000 or \$200,000 on work of that kind on a cost plus basis it is but an invitation to extravagance. To that I am now directing the minister's attention, because this has to do with something else.

Rubble stone was hauled during the evening by the Frid company's rig to the Crain building, and also by Mr. Drinka's rigs. Then there is another thing; the question of the scaffolding used on the two works. It seems to be abundantly clear that what happened was that certain timber, bolted together and painted blue was transported to the Crain building by Drinka in a Frid Construction Company truck, and on completion of the building on the campus was taken to Fort Henry. That I think can be established. That is a case in which the government of Canada is paying for work being done at some other place.

Mr. DUNNING: Is it?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. HOWE: How does my right hon. friend know that? It is a very common practice in cost plus work.

Mr. BENNETT: It went back to Fort Henry. The work at Queen's was not cost plus work.

Mr. HOWE: It is a very common thing for a contractor to move scaffolding from one job to another. He makes allowance for doing so on every cost plus job.

Mr. BENNETT: But the scaffolding was going to a private job.

Mr. HOWE: What difference does that make, as long as the bookkeeper keeps track of it?

Mr. BENNETT: A contractor has a job of public work on a cost plus basis, and he has a private job, and he uses the public work scaffolding for the private work.

Mr. DUNNING: The mere moving of the scaffolding does not prove anything wrong.

Mr. HOWE: It is done every day.