

policy upon which they have not been consulted. We have already had an example of this in this country, and the reason the Conservative party sit on this side of the House is because the Conservative leaders undertook to "jolly" their party into accepting a measure without consulting their friends in the House, as they were in duty bound to do. I stand here to maintain that principle. The leader of the Opposition should have called his followers together before committing them on this question, and most of all he should have awaited the announcement of the full policy; he should have held back; he should have suspected something wrong on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite rather than to have run in and approved of what he is not now quite sure he will approve of when it comes before the House. Now, what happened in Montreal? Why, on Friday night, the "Herald," the organ of hon. gentlemen opposite, quoted Sir Charles's statement, which appeared in the Montreal "Gazette" of that morning, and proceeded to use it to bolster up the case of the Government. Their case apparently required a great deal of bolstering. The Toronto "Globe" took up five columns on the first day to bolster up this deal, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, I think, took great care that no person should get information of this deal except the "Globe" newspaper.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Nonsense.

Mr. MACLEAN. The "Herald's" article of Friday night was quoted later on by the "Globe," and what does it say:

No one will appreciate better than Sir Charles Tupper the supreme importance and advantage which attach to the unusual safeguards which the Government have obtained as a result of the caution and firmness with which they have moved.

Now, the hon. gentleman seems so anxious to approve of this project—I hope he is going to condemn it later on—that he supplied the Montreal "Herald" with all the ammunition it required. There was a lot more in the "Herald" that night. It had an interview with Col. Tisdale approving of the transaction, and these interviews and the editorials based on them were quoted by the "Globe" of Monday, as follows:—

The Montreal "Herald" has been interviewing public men on the Government's Yukon Railway project. Sir Charles Tupper was among those who gave his views. He had no doubt the measures taken would meet with the approval of Parliament.

I have some doubt whether they will meet with the approval of Parliament.

"I regard these measures," he said, "as of incalculable value to Canada, and shall be only too glad to give the Government the best support in my power on a question of such vital importance at this moment." Sir Charles's only

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regret was that the bargain was not more speedily entered into, because a great deal of useless expenditure has no doubt been involved by the delay.

Has the hon. gentleman only one regret now in connection with that contract?

I hope he will have a great many, and that he will present them to this House. The "Globe" then goes on to quote the "Herald" as follows:—

Col. Tisdale, another member of the late Conservative Administration, who happened to be in Montreal was also interviewed. He said: "It was necessary to place the work in the hands of reliable and energetic men, and the Government had certainly succeeded in doing this. In the matter of time, he thinks the Government was fully justified in acting promptly and in not waiting for Parliament to meet. Delay was to have been avoided at all hazards."

And Col. Tisdale seems to have the idea that there were not other "reliable and energetic men" to do the work. Where is my hon. friend, the member for Glengarry? Does he say that there is only one firm in this country which can do this work—that no one but Mann & Mackenzie can do it? Why, Mr. Speaker, there are scores of contracting firms in Canada who can do that work just as well and who would do it much cheaper. I protest against the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) taking advantage of his position to say that only one firm could do the work, because he thus gives up half the case that will be urged against the contract when it comes up in the House.

On the same Saturday "La Patrie," the organ of the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) took occasion to reply to what "La Presse" had stated on Thursday evening. "La Presse," said "La Patrie," is trying to destroy the right hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Some hon. MEMBERS. En Francais.

Mr. MACLEAN. The word used is "détruire," and I suppose, according to the hon. gentlemen, the proper translation of "détruire" is to knife. "La Patrie" went on to say:

"La Presse" objected to the Yukon proposal at the very moment when Sir Charles Tupper, the Conservative chieftain, had proclaimed that this contract would be of incalculable benefit to Canada, and that he would be only too happy in helping the Government in this measure.

Does the hon. leader of the Opposition mean to say that the monopoly clauses in that contract, are of vital importance to this country, and that he will do all in his power to endorse both of those transactions? Will he stand up to-day and say, as he says in his interviews, that he endorses that land grab and that monopoly?

Then, on Saturday "La Patrie" felt justified in publishing the following editorial from which I quote for the benefit of the House: