

it will be done by Canadian labour; and we will have \$153,000 of the people's money in the treasury, which would have been thrown away if the Government had adopted the course which the hon. member opposite has advocated to-day.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am glad to know that I shall be obliged to detain the House for a very short time, because anybody who has listened to the clear, succinct and able indictment of the hon. Finance Minister by his predecessor (Mr. Foster) will admit that but very little need be said in reply to the extremely lame and impotent defence which the Finance Minister undertook to make. The hon. gentleman commenced by charging Mr. Burland, who represents the British American Bank Note Company with being a monopolist, and the late Government with having regarded Mr. Burland as entitled to a continued monopoly. But in his very next sentence the hon. gentleman refuted his own charge. In the very next sentence he said that Mr. Burland had applied for an extension of his contract, and that my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) had refused. My hon. friend would not permit Mr. Burland's contract to be extended, but insisted on the contract being submitted, when the proper time came, to tender in the usual way. The hon. gentleman thus himself conclusively proved that the late Government entertained no such idea as that a monopoly existed in favour of Mr. Burland, but that, on the contrary, they determined, when the proper time came, to have the contract submitted to open competition. So much for the charge, again and again reiterated by the hon. gentleman, that the late Government treated this contract as a monopoly to which the Burland Bank Note Company was entitled. The hon. gentleman says this Government gave wide and extended notices. He asks why did they go to England as well as to the United States. I think that I can furnish the reason. If the hon. gentleman had made up his mind to give the work to an American company in the city of New York, the best means he could possibly devise of covering such a design was to make the pretense—for it can be regarded as nothing else, considering the character of these specifications—of having tenders called for in England. But he knows that the moment he was asked the question whether these specifications were to be adhered to, the moment that Mr. Colmer, whom he had instructed to give notices of the specifications and call for tenders in England, asked whether these specifications were to be adhered to, the only answer he could give—unless the system of inviting tenders is to become a farce—was that there could be no variation, and that everyone who tendered would be held to the exact terms of the specifications. That was a proper position to take, but did

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the hon. gentleman adhere to it? I maintain that he had no tender from the American Bank Note Company at all. No one who knows anything of the character of the tenders can pretend for a moment that the hon. gentleman had an honest and legitimate tender from the American Bank Note Company. Why? Because their tender was not according to specifications; and if he had given them the answer he gave the English contractors who wished to tender, namely, that no change could be made in the specification, that it was a dishonest pretense to put forward specifications and then allow anyone to send in a tender entirely at variance with them and accept that tender, we would have heard no more about this contract with the American Bank Note Company. The only legitimate tender which the hon. gentleman had in his possession was that of Mr. Burland, representing the British American Bank Note Company. In every particular, as the hon. gentleman himself admits, the terms of the specifications were complied with exactly to the letter by Mr. Burland. Whereas, on the contrary, the tender sent in by the American Bank Note Company was one he was bound to reject entirely, because it contained a most material and substantial change by stipulating that the work, instead of being done in Ottawa, as the specifications required, should be done in New York. They would not undertake to do the work in Ottawa, but insisted on doing it in New York. Therefore, I say that the hon. gentleman stands here to-night without the shadow of foundation for the claim that he accepted the lowest tender. As a matter of fact, he had no lowest tender to accept. The hon. gentleman was unable to make any variation to suit the English tenderers, but to the American Bank Note Company he could give latitude to vary the specifications and conditions, according to their own pleasure. Yet he calls their offer a tender. Why was not the tender of the Barber-Ellis Company considered as a tender by the hon. gentleman? I agree that it was not a tender because it did not comply with the terms of his specifications, which required that \$50,000 should be put up with the Government as security for the carrying out of the work. They did not put up the money, but they offered to give to the hon. gentleman personal security, to his own complete satisfaction, for the \$50,000, in addition to the \$50,000 which they would have to invest in the city of Ottawa in order to carry out the contract. The hon. gentleman knows that that approached much more nearly to a legitimate tender—although I admit it was not one—than the tender he had in his hands from the American Bank Note Company, who told him, on the face of that tender, that they were not prepared to accept his specifications. I deny that he gave this contract to the lowest tenderer, simply be-