

Three or four Canadian Syndicates examined the specifications and the nature of the work to be done, but owing to the fact that the Government would not allow it to be done in Montreal or Toronto, and finding the capital required under such circumstances too large, the responsibility involved too heavy, and the risk attendant on it so great, they all but one declined to submit tenders.

In this way the Minister succeeded in putting a veto on the aspirations of Canadian capitalists, but it is now apparent that he was quite willing to allow the engraving to be done in New York by his American friends and, according to the 'Toronto "Globe,"' promised them the privilege of a second term, if they desired it. The result of this discrimination is made manifest by the fact that it is stated that only *one Canadian Tender* was submitted; as a consequence, when November 23rd was past, only one tender had been sent in, that of the British American Bank Note Company. Was this tender opened, and was it at this stage the American Bank Note Company of New York were invited to tender? At any rate, as a result the American Company, we are informed, were allowed to change the specifications and duly sent in a tender to suit their own wants.

No further action was taken by the Canadian Company till one of two things should happen, either they would be notified of the acceptance of their tender, or if it were not satisfactory, new tenders would be asked for. This, of course, is the procedure always followed in bona fide tendering.

No communication of any kind was had by the Government with the Canadian Company until two days after the Minister had the Order-in-Council passed on the 6th January, 1897, with only four members present, and in great haste had it signed by the Governor General; then on the 8th of January, he was magnanimous enough to send the following letter to the Company:—

SIR,

OTTAWA, January 8th, 1897.

Referring to your letter of the 21st November last, submitting a tender for engraving and a cheque for \$5,000, as a deposit, in compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in Circular dated 19th October, 1896, I have the honor to state that I regret that I am unable to accept the offer made in such tender, as the Government have a much more advantageous offer from another Company. I have accordingly given instructions to have the amount of your deposit returned to you.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. B. BURLAND, Esq., *Pres't.*

(Signed) W. S. FIELDING,

B. A. Bk. Note Co.

Minister of Finance.

The cheque, however, was not returned till the 18th of January. After receiving the notice above referred to, and the returned cheque, the President of the Canadian firm waited on the Deputy Minister of Finance, and requested an interview with the Minister to discuss the matter, and see if some arrangement could be made. At that time, Mr. Burland was ignorant of the fact that the American Company's tender had been received, or that the Minister had adopted a course the effect of which would jeopardise the capital of the British American Bank Note Company.

Hon. W. S. Fielding was out of town, but an interview was arranged for the following week. Before this interview was had, however, Mr. Burland was surprised to find in the "Globe" and in a New York paper, the statement that the contract had been given to the American Bank Note Company.