

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Something will be due to the contractors out of this amount, according to our own estimates.

Mr. BLAKE. That is the only sum the hon. gentleman ought to ask us to vote. If that be so, and the hon. gentleman will state the amount, we will deduct it from the half-million dollars. The balance ought to be the sum he expects to pay the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Quite so.

Mr. BLAKE. Does the hon. gentleman intend to take a special vote for anything that may be granted under this award?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If there is anything, I will.

Mr. BLAKE. If we are to understand that none of this money now being voted is to be devoted to the payment of the award, if one be made, that is a different thing, and we have nothing to say to it, as far as that is concerned, whatever we may have to say to it in other respects.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. This embraces the amount of money that the Department expects to be required to pay for the work performed by the contractors for section "B;" it is what we expect to find due to them and to pay the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the work that, under our agreement with them, they will be entitled to be paid for.

Mr. CASEY. There has been a statement in the papers that the arbitrators had come to a decision as to a part, at least, of the claim. It was stated that the claim consisted of two classes, one in regard to the classification of the work and the remeasuring of what has been done; the other, in regard to claims for damages caused by delay on the part of other contractors in finishing their part of the work. It was stated the first part had been settled and the arbitrators had made an award.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That statement is quite correct, that the arbitration has been divided into two parts. In the first place, the contractors claimed they were entitled to consideration for the change in the character of the work, and the reduction in the amount of work contained in the specifications when they took their contract. That is the point upon which the arbitrators are now sitting.

Mr. CASEY. Because the quantity was reduced after they took the contract?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. They asked for consideration on the ground that a very great change was made in the contract, as undoubtedly there was. They claimed that the work which they expected to be profitable had been reduced, and work that they considered unprofitable had been increased, just as contractors always make changes a basis for reconsideration. It is a question of consequential damages, if I might use the word; and that is the point now being considered. But the point that was referred to, and has been dealt with by the arbitrators, was the claim that the Chief Engineer had not allowed them what they were entitled to under the contract. An award has been made in their favour unanimously by the arbitrators, Judge Clarke, Mr. Brydges and Mr. Light, giving the contractors \$45,000 over and above the amount the Department were willing to pay. I do not anticipate that they will be allowed anything for the portion of the work now being considered.

Mr. BLAKE. I heard the award was \$160,000 or \$170,000; from the present statement, I presume that embraced a certain sum the Government offered to pay.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes; \$45,000 was paid over what the Chief Engineer was willing to certify to. There was no dispute to pay the \$120,000, to the best of my recollection.

Mr. BLAKE.

Mr. BLAKE. Does this vote include the \$120,000?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It covers the whole amount.

Mr. BLAKE. This is now a final vote. Will the hon. gentleman say what the final cost will be from Prince Arthur's Landing to the Red River should, as he expects, no award be granted against the Government?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. A little over \$14,000,000. I gave the exact figures on a former occasion.

Mr. BLAKE. There is no variation?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Under any supposeable condition of things, this contract will be closed, and the work will be executed by these contractors at a sum greatly below that originally estimated.

Mr. CASEY. The Chief Engineer was willing to certify to about \$120,000, as I understand, more than he had been willing to certify to in the first instance.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No.

Mr. CASEY. The \$45,000 is the award of the arbitrators; and what is the \$120,000?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There is no such sum as \$165,000. I said that the amount over and above that which the Department held to be due, was \$45,000.

Mr. CASEY. My hon. friend mentioned that he had seen this sum of \$165,000, or thereabouts, mentioned in the newspapers, and I asked if that sum included this \$45,000.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, the whole amount that is due is in this.

Mr. CASEY. Is the arbitration now sitting?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I understand so. There was a long vacation taken. I was extremely anxious to have everything closed up before Parliament rose, and urged it upon the arbitrators in the strongest way. Mr. Brydges was called back to Winnipeg, and as soon as it was possible for him to return he has done so, and I except before the House rises to be able to submit the final result.

Mr. CASEY. I think there was no standard of classification expressed in the contract.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There was a great difficulty about the original terms used in the contract.

69. British Columbia (revote \$1,000,000).....\$2,000,000 00

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. This sum is required to pay the staff, salaries of engineers and contractors for work done under contracts 60, 61, 62, 63 and 92, also for lands and damages.

Mr. BLAKE. Is the hon. gentleman still of opinion that the estimates he has formerly given, as to the total cost of the British Columbia section, will be verified?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am glad to say, that so far as we have been able to close any of these contracts, the figures are within and not without the estimate formerly submitted. I think the work will be completed within the estimate. Up to the present time, \$7,000,000 in round numbers have been spent.

Mr. BLAKE. I received a statement some time ago to the effect that an error had been made with reference to the location of the piers of one of the bridges, I think, across the Fraser River. Has the hon. gentleman heard anything about it?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have not heard.

Mr. BLAKE. Has he heard of any of the piers being undermined by the high water?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not remember; I will make a note of it.