

William. There is a company up there called the Great Lakes Dredging Company, one-half of the stock in which is owned by C. F. Bowman (a member of the local House) and one C. A. Bowman, and the other half is owned by Mr. James Whalen of Port Arthur. What is the modus operandi of this company in tendering for contracts? The company puts in a tender at 9 cents a yard and Mr. A. F. Bowman puts in a tender at 16 or 17 cents a yard. The idea that they have is that the gentleman who is a one-fourth holder of the stock of the company puts in a tender at 16 or 17 cents while his own company puts in a tender at 9 cents. What explanation has the minister to give of that?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I had no conversation with these gentlemen.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Bowman was examined under oath.

Mr. CARVELL. Were they public tenders?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, and fortunately for the country a couple of tenders intervened between the 9 cents and the 16 cents. The idea of this company was that there would be no tender lower than the 16 cents except their own of 9 cents and that the department would be so complacent that they would pull out the 9 cents tender and substitute the 16 cent tender.

Mr. CARVELL. Did the government get the work done for 9 cents?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes.

Mr. CARVELL. Where is the harm then?

Mr. BENNETT. My honest opinion is that they would never have got the work done for 9 cents were it not that two tenders for 11 cents and 12 cents intervened. Mr. Bowman was examined under oath.

Mr. CARVELL. It is fortunate we had these gentlemen examined because their evidence spoils your argument.

Mr. BENNETT. Will that perpetual parrot please pause for a while? I know the hon. gentleman is anxious to make an exhibition of himself before the Prime Minister in anticipation of his advent to the cabinet, but that is very far away. Now what happens next?

Mr. DUNCAN ROSS. You might tell us the truth about it.

Mr. BENNETT. Listen to my hon. friend from Kootenay; a gentleman who in cold blood murdered a minister by an interruption which he made in this House. I am surprised that he of all men in the House should open his mouth, he, the murderer of a former minister, he who drove that minister outside the cabinet.

Mr. DUNCAN ROSS. Personally I am not concerned very much about what the

Mr. BENNETT

hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) says or does not say, but I fancy that language is out of order and is not such as should be used in parliament.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Such language had better not be used.

Mr. GALLIHER. I have also to enter an objection to his reference to the member for Kootenay. I happen to be the member for Kootenay.

Mr. BENNETT. Well, I will withdraw the expression political murderer and I will call him the gentleman who precipitated the terrible descent of a minister of the Crown. I think that is in order.

Mr. DUNCAN ROSS. You ought to withdraw the other expression.

Mr. GALLIHER. You should withdraw the reference to Kootenay also

Mr. BENNETT. All right, I meant to refer to the member for Yale (Mr. Duncan Ross). Where the expenditure runs up into hundreds of thousands of dollars, because these dredging operations run into the millions, the tenderers come down and flaunt themselves before the department, confident that they are going to be able to perpetrate their frauds, and the most wonderful thing is that the government go on dealing with the self same men. When these tenders of the Grant Company were not acted upon by the department, for reasons best known to Mr. Aylesworth, what next happened? Tenders were invited and placed before the department on the 20th May, the former ones having been cancelled immediately. These tenders were invited by telegram, and a number of well known contracting firms either telegraphed or sent down their tenders. There was one from the Wilson Company of Toronto, one from Randolph McNally, one from the Sarnia Company and another from the Gode-rich Company. They were all willing to tender either by telegram or memo. Mr. Mackay, however, thought something better might be done, and he came right down to the field of operations and placed his tender with the department personally. That is proved by the fact that the envelope bears no postmark in which he placed his tender. Neither did the envelope in which the Grant Company placed their tender bear any postmark. And by a strange coincidence, although these two tenders are for different parts of Midland harbour, Mackay's envelope and Grant's envelope were together, showing how close these contractors are to each other. May I ask where the tenders are for the work to be performed at Victoria harbour?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It must be there.

Mr. BENNETT. The Owen Sound Company have a tender in and the Windsor Dredging Company. That is another of