

could not imagine the Government of the United States giving a contract for the printing of their bank notes, postage stamps and inland revenue stamps to a Canadian firm. They would scout and laugh at such an idea. They would say, "Do you mean to say that we have to go to Canada to find a firm to do work of this kind for the Government of the United States?" Any Congressman who proposed to do that would never be elected again. There is no question that would touch the pride of the American people so quickly. If any Congress voted to do such a thing as we are voting to do to-day the men composing it would not have a chance to sit in Congress again. The American people would think it an outrage on their sense of propriety and on their national pride to suggest that they should go to Canada and get Canadian corporations to go into the States to print their bank notes and postage stamps with pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln on them; and I think they are right. I think sometimes that the American people have a little too much braggadocio; their children are taught in their histories and geographies that the United States is the only country in the world. But I think Canadians have too little of that sort of thing, and the present Government have even less than the people of Canada. I think the people of Canada would rather pay a little more for work of this kind in order to have it done by a Canadian company, which has done it well and at fair prices in the past, than to have it said that we have to go to the United States to get it done. We must always remember that this work has always been well done; no complaint had been heard about it, and it had been done by Canadian workmen. I must confess, notwithstanding the statement of the Finance Minister, that in reading over the blue-book it did appear to me that he had favoured the American Bank Note Company a little, because I find that after the tender of the British American Bank Note Company had been sent in, that was the end of it so far as they were concerned; but when the American Company wanted to make certain changes in their tender if they accepted the work, the Finance Minister was willing to talk to them about it. He discussed these changes. He did not say this condition throws you out and we must give the contract to your rivals. He did not tell the British American Bank Note Company anything about this, but discussed the matter with the American Bank Note Company just as if it was an ordinary matter of bargain and not of tender at all. The British American Company had complied with every condition of the specification. They made no stipulations, they did not ask to be exempted from any conditions, but these other parties did. The hon. Finance Minister, however, discussed the matter with the American Company, wrote them letters,

saw them personally, and after a while agreed to accept their conditions, and in this I think he favoured the American Company. I do not say that he did so intentionally, but none the less he did so. I am satisfied in my own mind that the Canadian people would rather pay a little more for work of this kind to a Canadian company and have the work done entirely in Canada, than give it to a foreign corporation and go to the United States to have it done. I am very much mistaken in my estimate of the temper of the Canadian people if that be not their opinion. While the price of the Canadian Company was rather higher, yet we have, at the same time, the evidence of the Deputy Minister of Finance that in 1892 these were fair prices. Does the Government want to have things done for less than their worth? The hon. Finance Minister boasted a great deal of having saved the people \$153,000. Well, apparently he has effected a saving, but we are not through with the contract yet. If the hon. gentleman should ask my opinion, I could have told him how he might have saved the Canadian people a great deal of money in other ways. He could, for instance, admit coal oil free. If he wished to save the Canadian people money, there are many other ways in which he could do it without giving important contracts to a foreign corporation. There is a principle at stake in this connection, and in my opinion Parliament should lay down the rule that, in matters of this kind, only Canadians should be allowed to tender. That would be an encouragement for Canadians to equip themselves to do work of this kind. What will be the result of this contract? It will throw us back for years. Our young men will have no encouragement to learn engraving, because the hon. Finance Minister has closed the principal field open to them in this country. The hon. gentleman has admitted the statement of the American Bank Note Company that we have no skilled workmen in Canada who could do this work as well as it can be done in New York. For my part, I dissent from that statement. It is not a true statement, but the hon. Finance Minister accepts it as if it were gospel. Under this contract there will be no encouragement for our young men to practice engraving, because only the ordinary mechanical work will be done in Ottawa, and the skilled work, the engraving, will be done in New York. I think it would have been better if this Government, before closing the contract with anybody, had asked the British American Company to make a reduction in their prices; and if they had done so, we might now have had the satisfaction of knowing that the work of printing our bank notes and postage stamps and inland revenue stamps and work of that kind was not being done by an American corporation.

Motion agreed to, and the House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.