

because it was located at a place where it would be utterly useless.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER said the terminus was located where recommended by Mr. BAILLAIRGE who had spent several years of labor in connection with the work upon the sole ground that it would save the expenditure of millions of money. He asserted that he had never used the slightest influence either with the Canal Commission or with the engineer, or anybody connected with the Board of Trade to have the terminus located in the County of Cumberland; and all independent authorities had come to the conclusion that the interests of the country would be best served by having it there. He did not see that he, because he happened to be member for Cumberland, should have offered any objection to the arrangement.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE pointed out that the hon. member for Cumberland spoke of Mr. KEEFER as if he were the engineer in charge. When he (Mr. MACKENZIE) took charge of the department, Mr. KEEFER was not connected with the work at all. Indeed, whatever Mr. KEEFER had done had ere then been undone, Mr. PAGE having then been commissioned to make a new report. That report was not completed until a few months ago, and it would have been impossible to place the work under contract before this spring, so that nothing had been lost in any case and nothing would be lost now because he did not anticipate being able until a considerable time after the House would rise, to obtain any tenders for the work or make any actual progress in it. As to his opinion of the Boards of Trade, he need not add anything. In some places they were mere political clubs, and in some places they did not possess commercial intelligence. One Board of Trade, a little over a year ago, thought fit to blackball every one who belonged to the political party to which he belonged. This necessitated the retirement from it of every person who was connected with that party. That Board of Trade proceeded immediately to discuss political questions and denounce the Government, and its opinions were paraded over the country as of great value. He declined to be guided by Boards of Trade so long as he had any common sense left. He would accept the opinions of commercial men everywhere, but he would not be tied to

the opinions of any Board of Trade in matter of this kind.

Mr. WOOD hoped the hon. gentleman would except the Board of Trade of Hamilton.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he excepted many, but objected to having their opinions thrust upon him on engineering questions as an authority he was bound to obey with regard to this estimate, all that the Government required was what was necessary to take the preliminary steps to have this canal properly built, and to obtain other information of a commercial nature, as well as tenders for the work to place before the House at its next session. He need not assure hon. gentlemen that he had been on this question influenced by no feeling which could not be characterized as a national sentiment. He had no purpose to serve, and no object to gain except that of promoting the public welfare.

Mr. PALMER said reports of every possible description had been sent in, and the Government must by this time be in possession of all the information necessary to proceed with the work. The Government must know by this time where the canal should be built, if it was to be built at all. There must be something more in the course pursued by the Government than a desire for further information. He held it was a sign of weakness and vacillation in the last degree in this Government that they should have mentioned this project in the Speech from the Throne. When would this delay end? After all the information that the Government had obtained—after all their promises to commence, the work, they were now merely calling for tenders to ascertain what the cost of construction would be. He regretted this course. They would never get information of this kind from practical men and it would be much better for the Government to obtain it in some other way. There was a feeling among the people in the part of the country from which he came that the Government were not disposed to keep good faith with them and they would regret this action of the Government and consider it a sham. The expression of the hon. member for South Bruce that he would approve of expending this amount in some other way in the Lower Provinces, and not on the Baie Verte Canal was merely thrown out to influence the votes of members. He was