

the strange proceeding that was being carried on, I made further inquiry, and later on I found that a number of the firms whose names appeared on Cook's list had not only not submitted tenders but had not been asked to tender. Finally to get a record of the transaction I wrote to all the firms asking them to let me know just what had transpired between them and Mr. Cook. One of the firms to which I wrote, and the name of which appeared on the summary of tenders, was the Mortimer Company, of Ottawa. When the firm received my letter, Mr. William Mortimer went to the Printing Bureau and there saw Mr. Cook and produced my letter of inquiry. Mr. Cook told him that was all right, and said he would go into the King's Printer with him, but later he said that Mr. Mortimer should not come in but should wait for his return. Mr. Cook went into the office of the King's Printer alone, and later returned with two letters which he had presented to the King's Printer for signature. Although both of these letters were written in the middle of June, both were dated back to the 22nd of April, the day on which Cook had obtained the alleged tender from the Mortimer Company. These letters he handed Mr. Mortimer, the one asking the firm to submit a tender for the lithographing work in connection with 'Farm Grasses,' and the other asking them to submit a price per pound at which they would be prepared to supply the paper. Now, the circumstances under which the firm did hand in the alleged tender are set out in the letter which was read this afternoon by the hon. member for Hastings, and at this stage I need not further refer to it. Then Cook carried out a similar performance with the Toronto Lithographing Company. Mr. Sneaker, what will you and this House think of a man, who, having given a contract to the Toronto Lithographing Company on the 28th of February, 1910, wrote that company on the 11th of June, 1910, dating the letter back to the 28th of February, and going through the solemn farce of asking the company which he knew had been doing the work through the month of March and part of the month of April to submit a tender for the lithographing and for the paper. With the letter that he sent that company on the 11th of June, he, without the knowledge of the King's Printer, sent the following letter as well:

Ottawa, June 11, 1910.

Gentlemen,—The enclosed letter is purely formal, being simply to place on file the facts concerning my submission of the 'Farm Grass' drawing and the specifications for printing and paper for same. The matter is now being taken up by our minister, and I hope in the course of a few days to be able

to inform you as to whether you are the successful tenderer or not.

Yours truly,

R. E. COOK,  
For Supt. Printing.

Imagine a man writing such a letter as that on the 11th of June, 1910, when he had given the firm a contract for the work on the 28th of February, 1910; when he had received letter after letter throughout the month of March from that firm showing the progress that they had made on the work; when he had gone to that firm and taken the copy away from them, and made an arrangement with them to return it so that they might proceed with the work.

I leave you, Sir, and this House, to characterize conduct of that kind as it ought to be characterized. But it will probably be illuminating if I direct the attention of the House to one or two other letters written by the same gentleman to other firms with whom he had the same kind of dealings. One of the firms from whom he got a price was the firm of Stahl & Jaeger, of New York. It appears that when he visited them, they gave him certain specimens of their work, and on the 24th of May they wrote to him this letter:

Dear Sir,—We gave you our estimate April 20 for furnishing your coloured plate, will you kindly advise us if the contract has been given out. We gave you a sheet of Vases, specimen of our printing, will you kindly return same to us and oblige.

Yours very truly,

STAHL & JAEGER.

To that letter Mr. Cook sent this reply:

Ottawa, May 25, 1910.

Gentlemen,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday re coloured plates, for which I have your estimate.

In reply, I have to say that owing to the death of King Edward, which has caused a lot of extra work, and the absence from the city of our minister, the Secretary of State, the contract has not yet been awarded. As soon as the successful tenderer is known you will be advised of the fact. Regarding your specimens, I will have to ask you to let them remain with me until the matter of the contract is settled, when they will be returned to you.

Yours very truly,

R. E. COOK,  
For Supt. of Printing.

On the 11th of June, 1910, he also wrote Stahl & Jaeger one of the stock letters which he sent to the other firms from whom he had received the prices which he set out in the summary, produced to me as a set of tenders which he had received for this work. All the prices were received in practically the same way, and they were all of the character of that described in the