

wide. The work was simple, and it was to be carried on in a city of a couple of hundred thousand people supplying all material and labor that could possibly be required for the work. There has been paid out upon that work in cash \$394,000. Taking the outside estimate of the cost of the work \$260,000, and we have an admitted loss to the country of \$134,000, even if the country is never called upon to make good the claim still outstanding and in litigation. Therefore, in discussing the question as to how this country came to lose \$134,000, it is not necessary to refer to the expenditure in connection with investigation into that loss. Trials have taken place, suspected persons have been brought to trial, not only once but twice, and have been acquitted. According to the reasoning of the hon. member for Western Assiniboin (Mr. Davin), the moment there was a failure of justice, and one of these accused persons acquitted, the Government must never again attempt to secure justice against them. In discussing this question, as I said, I do not intend to use controversial testimony, and therefore

WILL SIMPLY QUOTE FROM THE RECORDS OF THE GOVERNMENT
THEMSELVES.

What were the steps taken in order to secure the performance of the work? The resolution charges the Minister of Public Works with having disregarded business principles.

NO PUBLIC TENDERS FOR THE WORK WERE DEMANDED,

either for supplying material or for supplying labour. The best that could be said is that tenders were privately invited from half a dozen persons in the city of Montreal for the supply of a portion of the labor for one of the works, and that, not the chief work.

NO TENDERS WERE INVITED

for a large portion of the material—the lumber that went into the work. Over \$45,000 worth of lumber was bought by private purchase without competition. Parliament voted the money for this work in May, 1892. The Government ought to have known at that time what they wanted; and yet we do not find that they have any definite plan matured for carrying out the work until about a year afterwards. First they proposed to have the canal deepened to 14 feet. After having had estimates upon that basis, they changed their specifications to 18 feet. Then, after wasting valuable time and getting into the middle of the winter they changed the estimates again to 22 feet. Now, I ask any business man if that showed any great business aptitude in regard to public works? Not only were they changing their plans, which ought to have been more or less matured when they asked Parliament in the previous year for money, but they undertook the performance of the work at a very advanced period of the winter. Now, it should be borne in mind that