

Mr. CARVELL. I have a right to an answer to my question. Were either of these tenders accepted by the government? The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) dare not answer; he is simply attempting to deceive this House.

Mr. BENNETT. The understudy is getting very violent.

Mr. PUGSLEY. He would have to answer 'no' to your question and that is what he does not want to do.

Mr. CARVELL. I think the hon. gentleman should in all decency answer the question.

Mr. BENNETT. Let us hear your question.

Mr. CARVELL. Were any of these tenders accepted by the department? Was there not a lower tender at a very much lower price, and was not that contract given to the lower tender?

Mr. BENNETT. I will come to that. Mr. Aylesworth, by reason of the fraud that had been practised on the department, and not believing in the genuineness of the supposed rival tender—

Mr. CARVELL. Answer the question.

Mr. PARDEE. If he does he will show there was no fraud.

Mr. BENNETT. My hon. friend from Lambton (Mr. Pardee) thinks there is no fraud. As a follower of the muddy Ross administration he was thrown out of the local House. He would stand up for anything whether it was right or wrong.

Mr. PARDEE. The hon. gentleman has not yet answered the question.

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. gentleman was defeated for the local House, and very properly so.

Mr. PARDEE. I am not ashamed of having been defeated, but in the meantime you might tell the facts and answer the question.

Mr. BENNETT. I have told the facts as to the dredging. No one can deny that the tenders of the two supposedly rival firms are in the same hand writing.

Mr. PARDEE. Was the contract awarded on these tenders? That is the question.

Mr. BENNETT. When Mr. Aylesworth saw that the tender of the Mackay and Grant Companies was for 53 cents and that Mackay had done the work in prior years for 16 and 17 cents, he would not give the contract at all, though they were the lowest, at 53 cents.

Mr. PUGSLEY. They were not the lowest.

Mr. CARVELL. They were not the lowest.

Mr. BENNETT. They were, outside the tender of the Dominion Dredging Company which the minister says was withdrawn.

Mr. SPROULE. An old trick.

Mr. BENNETT. As a sample of the common honesty of Mackay and the Mackay and Grant companies what did they do? They then came in with a tender for exactly the same work at 26 cents.

Mr. CARVELL. And they got the contract.

Mr. BENNETT. Yes.

Mr. CARVELL. Did the country suffer anything?

Mr. J. D. REID. It would have if they succeeded.

Mr. CARVELL. We will get the true story after a while.

Mr. BENNETT. The country did not suffer, of course it didn't.

Mr. CARVELL. Well that is all right then.

Mr. BENNETT. Had Mackay and Grant been permitted to carry out their game of fraud as they expected, they would have got the contract at 53 cents a yard.

Mr. CARVELL. Which shows we have a good honest government.

Mr. LANCASTER. Have you just found it out?

Mr. BENNETT. I quite agree that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Carvell) coming from New Brunswick has a very hazy idea of what public morality and public honesty in this country should be.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. BENNETT. And the people of New Brunswick made it pretty plain to him the other day and they will make it plainer still when they get a chance at him.

Mr. CARVELL. I must apologize for interrupting my hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) but it seemed necessary that some one should interrupt him and try and set him right.

Mr. BENNETT. And when anything of that kind is required somebody can always be relied on in the person of the understudy from New Brunswick because what other gentlemen would scorn to do that hon. gentleman is willing and anxious to do. Let him play out his part, it suits him admirably.

Mr. DUNCAN ROSS. Well, push along.

Mr. BENNETT. This is a fair sample of the dredging operations as they are conducted in Ontario and the manner in which tenderers approach the foot of the throne when they are tendering. There were some tenders called for Thunder Bay and Fort