

North Victoria (Mr. Barron) happened to be the first communication of the fact that such letters had been published that was received by the hon. Minister. Ill news, it is said, generally travels fast. I am surprised if this information has not reached the hon. Minister earlier than the time at which he received it from the lips of my hon. friend this day. If the information had been received, I hold it was the Minister's duty at once, for the honor of his Department, to have made a thorough enquiry into the matter which lies obviously at the source of that correspondence. I hold it to be his duty, now that it is called to his attention, to pledge himself to make that enquiry, and moreover, to indicate the results to this House. It is perfectly plain that, if the correspondence be genuine, this colleague of ours, the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. McGreevy), was in attendance here at the time that tenders were to be considered for a great public work to be carried on in his own city; that he was here in attendance, not with the view of protecting the public interest by seeing that the lowest tenderer should get the contract, but with the view of acquiring by illegitimate means, through some untrustworthy and corrupt officer of the Department, early information, even in anticipation of the hon. Minister's own information as to the results of the calculations with respect to the different tenders, in order that a job might be put up on the Department and the public, and that some home-grown work might be accomplished with the tenders. It is clear that in pursuance of that scheme, an arrangement was made whereby the moment the calculations were run through, Mr. McGreevy was to have access to them, or information as to the results. It is clear that he acquired, somehow or other, in advance, information of the fact as to who were the lowest tenderers. It is clear that he indicated to those with whom he was conspiring against the public interest, and for the private gain of the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co., of which his brother appears to have been a member, and in whose business the hon. member is reported to have been interested, the propriety of entering into some arrangement with a person named Beauceage, to whom it was supposed the tender would be allotted, because his tender was believed to be the lowest, and this before Mr. Beauceage could know his position as a tenderer, whereby his position should be secured for Larkin & Connolly. It is clear by the final letter that, just upon the eve of the allotment of the tender, when notice was about to be given to Mr. Beauceage and Mr. Gallagher that they were the lowest tenderers, an arrangement was directed to find out some plan whereby—what? That Larkin & Connolly might be substituted in place of Mr. Beauceage, who was the lowest tenderer? No. But that Mr. Beauceage and Mr. Gallagher, who were the lowest tenderers, might withdraw in some way, might indicate that some mistake had been made by themselves or by the Department with respect to their tenders, so that the higher tender of Larkin & Connolly might become the lowest and so they might be awarded the contract. Such a condition of things could have been effective only by means of the complicity of some officer of the hon. Minister's Department. That it was so seems to be very fairly indicated by the correspondence, and, therefore, even in these last hours of the Session, I call on the hon. Minister to do again with respect to this new develop-

ment, as he agreed to do with respect to the other development, to repeat at the earliest moment his pledge that he will make an enquiry, and give us the result, so that we may not close this Session with such an apparent stain resting on the hon. gentleman's Department as exists to-day.

THE LATE MR. HUDSPETH, M.P.

MR. BLAKE. In the absence of my hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, who has been called out of the House for a moment, I may say that, on this side of the House, we cordially concur in every word that has fallen from the right hon. gentleman. I knew Mr. Hudspeth for a great many years. He was a warm personal friend of mine from his youth; he was, as the right hon. gentleman has said, one of the kindest and most lovable souls that ever breathed, and a man of the very highest instincts of honor. He was one of those whose, in his personal career, his professional career, and his political career, never, I believe, made an enemy, and who made friends both among his adversaries and supporters wherever he went. He was one of those who very largely conducted to soften the asperities, often too great, which occur in the course of our political antagonisms, and serious as his loss is to us in his other capacities, it is most serious to us in the other element to which I have referred, and in which he stood very high indeed in the ranks of this Parliament.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

(In the Committee.)

MR. BLAKE. As the hon. gentleman has intimated to us, that this is only the beginning and not the end of this policy, I think it would be well if he would say what the total liability is that the country is expected to incur, in virtue of this policy, as respects this railway? We have given a subsidy already. We are now asked to grant more, and the hon. gentleman says we will be asked again for another subsidy.

MR. BLAKE. I understand the statement of the First Minister to be practically a pledge that the remainder of this road will be aided as the commencement of it is aided. It is, therefore, necessary that we should know to what extent we are pledging ourselves. That being done, I think there may be an advantage in adopting the plan which the hon. gentleman is now adopting. In times past, the hon. gentleman has taken grants for a certain mileage, and the following Session he has proposed to apply the gross sum which he had taken for the longer mileage to a shorter mileage. It will be more difficult for him to pursue that iniquitous plan under this system, and, as he has done in the past, to double up the grants. If, therefore, the hon. gentleman states frankly to us, as he has done on these two items, what he intends to do, I think the adoption of this plan may prevent him from putting himself in the way of temptation.

MR. BLAKE. I observe that the only paper the hon. gentleman has brought down in connection with this road—though some communications I have received have led me to believe there are more papers—is a memorandum signed by the hon. member for Dundas (Mr. Hickey) on the 7th March, and another signed by Mr. J. P. Whitney