

of the Government, and, upon approval of same, to engrave in the parent establishment the original dies of portraits, vignettes, lathe work, borders, &c., with which the matrix die of each note or stamp will be partially prepared, carrying same to Ottawa for finishing; all the transferring and finishing of the printing plates with their necessary retouchings to be done in Ottawa; and we might add that no Canadian labour would be displaced by our so doing, as the labour employed heretofore in making such original engravings, in our opinion, has been largely that of non-residents.

My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) disputed that to-day. I have no knowledge on the subject except to call attention to the tenderer's own statement. The company further state:

In regard to security against loss or fraud, we have to say that we shall take every precaution and care in the execution of the proposed contract, as is our invariable custom established by long experience. The company has been entrusted with the preparation of securities such as bonds, paper money, stamps, mint dies, &c., &c., from governments and banks of almost every nation, and without even the requirement of a bond or deposit, excepting a bond to the United States for postage stamps only; and no claim for loss or fraud has ever had to be made.

That, Sir, is the statement made by the tenderers, and though it may be said that we are not bound to accept their own estimate of themselves, I may say, that I made proper inquiry in quarters well informed, and I am in a position to add that the American Bank Note Company is one of the most respectable, reliable, and responsible concerns engaged in the engraving business on the continent of America, or for that matter, throughout the world. As a further proof of that, I quote the statement they make as to the banks for which they are doing business. They have been making notes, according to their statement, for the Dominion Bank, Bank of Toronto, Canadian Bank of Commerce, Ontario Bank, Standard Bank, Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia, Merchant's Bank of Halifax, People's Bank of Halifax, Bank of British Columbia and Bank of New Brunswick. I venture to say, that every one of these banking institutions is just as jealous of the bank's interests, and as anxious to guard against fraud, and as interested to have good work, as is the Government of Canada, and if these great banking institutions the managers of which are known to us all as gentlemen of very great sagacity and prudence, can deal with the American Bank Note Company without any risk of loss or fraud, I do not see why there need be the least alarm at the Government of Canada dealing with them. My hon. friend, before concluding, called attention to a letter written by Mr. Burland on the 15th of January, in which he proposed that we should allow him to do the work on the terms offered by the other company. That is to say, after we had invited public tenders, after we had received the tender

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of the other company, after we had negotiated with them, after we had accepted their tender and notified them of the fact, Mr. Burland asked to be allowed to substitute a new tender at their figures. That was a most extraordinary proposition. Mr. Burland declared in his correspondence that his business had been injured, and he thought it necessary to add \$30,000 to the price of his former contract. He thought it necessary to name a price which was \$150,000 more than the price of the American company, when he thought that he had a monopoly, and that we were at his mercy; but when he found that there was competition, he coolly proposed to drop off the whole \$153,000 and take the contract at the price of the American company, and he thought this Government were going to accept his proposition. I was surprised to hear the hon. member for York make the statement he did to-day that when that letter of Mr. Burland was written no action had been taken, there was no decision arrived at, there was no Order in Council, there was nothing done, but the whole matter was still open.

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend will allow me, I have here exactly what I did state—the bones of it, at any rate. I said that at that time there was no Order in Council confirming the contract, that no contract had been granted, and that there was no purchase of property in Ottawa. That is exactly what I stated.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If that was exactly the bones, I suspect that the flesh had another colour.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend put the colour on.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Very often it is necessary. The hon. gentleman's statement was that on the 15th of January, when Mr. Burland wrote that letter, no action had been taken which was binding on the Government. Surely that was what the hon. gentleman meant to convey.

Mr. FOSTER. No, I meant to convey exactly what I stated.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If the hon. gentleman did not mean to convey the idea that the Government at that time were free and open to make a contract with Mr. Burland, what point had his observation?

Mr. FOSTER. I did claim that they were free and open to do it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If my hon. friend will turn to page 49 of the blue-book, he will find that ten days before the date of Mr. Burland's letter a telegram had been sent to the New York company stating that I was prepared to recommend the acceptance of their tender provided the details could be arranged satisfactorily.