

not know whether the Government will take us into their confidence sufficiently to tell us the terms of this contract which they admit that they have signed. Down to the present hour, in connection with this fast Atlantic service, everything that the Government has done has been proclaimed in and out of Parliament. This is a subject in which the whole country was so deeply interested that we felt we should fail in our duty to Parliament and to the country if we did not give the fullest publicity to every step in relation to it. I think, therefore, that this House has a right to expect that, as the Government have admitted that they have made a contract, they will lay a copy of that contract on the Table of the House, that we may be able to judge of it, and know our position in relation to a question of such vital importance to the country. I have no hesitation in saying that, anxious as I was to see Mr. Huddart obtain the reward of his energy and enterprise and of his large expenditure in prosecuting this work, yet, when, as High Commissioner, I was called upon to come over and confer on this subject with Sir Mackenzie Bowell and his Government, I said to Mr. Huddart frankly: The Colonial Minister makes it a sine qua non that there shall be new tenders, and I am bound to say to you in the spirit of friendship that the Government of Canada will not entertain any tender unless it is backed by such an amount of capital as to show that the parties are absolutely prepared, not to take the contract and endeavour to raise the capital upon it, but to carry it on to completion. So, Sir, I feel that nothing could more completely damn this enterprise than to enter into a contract with parties which have not all the resources to enable them to carry it to completion. But the fact that Mr. Huddart, with a contract from this Government for £150,000 a year could do nothing in the money market of the world to obtain the necessary capital, but that, after the most complete investigation, it was found absolutely necessary for the Imperial Government to supplement that with £75,000 a year, is the best proof that to undertake this service for a sum materially less than £225,000 a year must involve placing it in the hands of people who will not be able to carry it to a successful completion. Deploping, as I do, any delay—because it will take two years after the contract is made to construct the steamers—I felt it my duty to call the attention of hon. gentlemen to what I regard as the great importance of this question and to give a brief and general résumé of the facts already before the House, that they may take such steps as will secure not a contract but the early and successful carrying out of the work by parties who possess the necessary resources, knowledge and enterprise. I regret taking up the time of the House but I felt it my duty to draw the attention of hon. gentle-

men opposite to this point. I move that the House do now adjourn.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). For all practical purposes, I suppose, the House might as well adjourn, because the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) has pretty well destroyed the chance of doing anything to-day.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. And this matter is of no value or consequence, I suppose.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I will not say that, but the method the hon. gentleman has taken to bring up this question renders his remarks of much less consequence than they otherwise would be. Now, the hon. gentleman was good enough to accuse the Government of discourtesy, saying that they did not deal fairly with the House in not bringing down all the steps of an uncompleted negotiation. I think that most of my parliamentary friends will agree with me that for an hon. gentleman of his experience to bring this question up on a motion for adjournment, without giving the slightest notice to the Government of his intention to do so, was a most excellent mode of wasting the time of the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I thought the question asked was sufficient notice that the matter was to be taken up.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. This is the first time I have ever heard this doctrine of implication advanced by a gentleman in the position of the leader of the Opposition. The hon. gentleman knows that the custom has been, when gentlemen availed themselves of this special mode of calling attention to a question, to give the Government notice of it, if they want a detailed reply. I think a good deal of the pith of the hon. gentleman's remarks was contained in a sentence which dropped from him, perhaps, unawares, a few minutes ago, in which he protested against the people of Canada being allowed to get this contract for anything less than the million and a quarter, or so, which he was prepared to pay for it. If I am to judge by the hon. gentleman's expression, he would regard it as a high crime and misdemeanour for the present Liberal Government to succeed in getting done for two-thirds of the sum what he was prepared to pay for, on an extremely doubtful class of tenders, at a rate of \$750,000 a year. I took occasion, when this matter was up before the House, without desiring to reflect upon either the Messrs. Huddart or the Messrs. Allan, to intimate to the hon. gentleman what I now repeat—that I, for one, do not consider the tenders given by Mr. Huddart or by the Messrs. Allan as tenders in any proper sense at all. And for two reasons: Both one and the other of these firms, as the hon. leader of the Oppo-