

Where did the *Empire* get that information? It happens that the correspondent was mistaken that time, and he may be mistaken now, in representing this as a second report from Mr. Wood. If the Government would take my suggestion, I would advise them to get Mr. Wood to make one or two more reports, and he will get somewhere near the truth. In his former report he said the charges were frivolous. Let him look at what I have stated to this House—and I stand by every word I said then—and show where I was incorrect. I know that I spoke a long time and tired the patience of my brother senators, but they will admit that I was warranted in all that I said when they consider the amount of public money that is wasted on the Welland Canal, and when I say that I know, from facts that have come to my knowledge since, that I did not get at 5 per cent. of the truth. I can tell the leader of the Government in this House that the sooner the Department acts in the direction I have indicated the better it will be for the country. I can tell him further, that since this investigation has taken place the officials have been wasting the public money and destroying public property. I have evidence to show it. I hope that even without moving for this report the Government will lay it on the Table, and will have the evidence published, so that the people can see what has been taking place on the Welland Canal. They may say that it will involve expense, that it will cost money; but I can tell them to-day that the Welland Canal investigation has saved more money already than it has cost, and if for no other reason than to be a warning to evil-doers hereafter, the evidence and the report should be published and distributed through the country. The Government have nothing to hide in this matter. I am perfectly satisfied that they want to show the world what is going on, and they will give evidence of their good faith by so doing. They never can satisfy the people along the Welland Canal that they do not want to smother up things when they lay one report on the Table to-day and give another report to the press to-morrow. Let them lay the whole matter before the people, so that they can judge between my statements in the Senate and the commissioner's report, and I am ready to stand by public opinion on this matter.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I hope my hon. friend will dismiss from his own mind, and will also assist me in removing the impression from the minds of hon. members, that the Government is acting, or feels in any way different from what he says it ought to act and feel. The Government has nothing to conceal in this matter; it has no feeling on the subject at all. It desires solely to do justice, and if this official has been guilty of wrong-doing, of course they will punish him for it. I said so when my hon. friend brought this matter up a year ago; I say so still, but my hon. friend has been, I venture to say, without offence to him, a little premature in this discussion. When my hon. friend made the remarks with which he favored the House some time ago, the report was not then before the Senate. It was almost impossible for members to know of what he was speaking, and they certainly could not apply what he was saying to the substance of the report, because the report had not been laid before the House, and none of the members had seen it. My hon. friend now complains, as a serious wrong—and in that respect, to some extent, what he says is plausible—that this report first appeared in the public press before it was submitted to this House—this so-called second report. Now, the facts concerning that so-called second report are these: when the first report was laid before this House there was no knowledge on the part of the Government that there was any second report. In fact, when the commissioner made his report, which was laid before this House, he became *functus officio*. He had no right to make any other report; he was not called upon to do so, if this be a report at all, which is somewhat questionable from my hon. friend's statement, since it seems to be an unsigned memorandum made after the report was submitted to the Government—if it be a report at all, I would say with regard to it that the Government have only lately received it, and they are now considering what they will do with it. It is now under their consideration, whether they will take any notice of it at all, and if they consider that it is proper that it should be dealt with as an official report, it will at once be laid on the Table of this House. My hon. friend seems to think that the *Empire* had some special means of getting a knowledge on this subject.