

complied with the portion of the contract which depended on having the track laid by the 1st of July this year; because the expenditure made was commensurately great, and the advantage to the country is the same as it would have been had the original arrangement been adhered to. I wish to explain the manner in which I am treating these figures. Should we be able to complete that work for the closest estimate we could make at the present, we shall save \$532,839 as between the cost of the work and the price at which it was let. Hon. gentlemen are aware that great efforts have been made to improve the location of the line after the contract was made, and both on this and the adjoining section Mr. Fleming was able, by great exertions, to shorten the line, although most elaborate surveys had been previously made. When the Government had undertaken to do the work, it was found that by great efforts the line could be shortened by several miles, as well as very considerable reductions made in the work in addition. There were some changes in the character of the structures that were contemplated, which also enabled us, especially on the adjoining section of the work, to make a very considerable saving. On the section from Eagle River to Keewatin, 42, the present estimate is \$2,904,153; the contract price was \$4,130,707; so we expect to effect a saving on this section of \$1,225,554. On the contract from Keewatin to Cross Lake, section 15, as the House is aware, a change was made in the character of the work.

Mr. ANGLIN. Will the hon. gentleman describe that change.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think it has been the subject of such elaborate discussion, and there is so much information in the hands of the hon. gentlemen concerning it, that I do not think it would be right to trespass on the indulgence of the House by detaining it by a further specific statement. But I may say, in general terms, that solid embankments were substituted for trestle work, and the reasons for that will be found in the reports of the engineers during the time my hon. predecessor was in office, and also in documents subsequently laid before the Government, and which led them to the conclusion that the change would be in the interests of the country. That change has added to the cost something like \$250,000. So, as estimated, the figures stand thus: The work is almost finished, or expected to be actually finished immediately; the estimated cost of the section is \$2,619,583—and the contract price is \$1,594,085. Added to that price is \$250,000, caused by the change in the character of the work, and you have \$1,844,085, or an amount at present, of \$775,500 more to construct the work than the contract price agreed upon.