

now. And this concern is doing the very thing that I asked the minister to do two months ago, and which he refused. And, instead of meeting the charge I made, he read an ancient document to try and make a case against me. I notice that he did please some of his followers here, but he only made himself ridiculous in New Brunswick where the facts are known. The fact is, the pressure became so strong that he could not resist it and had to come to the proposition I made and do what I asked him—except that, instead of giving the contract to the man who owned the plant and who had agreed to pay a good price to the farmer, he gave it to political friends who bought the plant and who, so far as I know, did not agree to pay any particular price to the growers of the hay. But natural competition will run the price up, and the farmers will get a better price than they have been getting. This was done at the risk of a fight with Smith. They

10 p.m. went to St. John and Smith began to tell them: We have got Carvell licked. But these gentlemen said: "we are not here to lick Carvell, but we are here to lick you if you don't give us contracts." They came to Ottawa and saw the minister, and the minister climbed down—not to help lick Carvell, but to save the other from a licking. That is an illustration of how things are being carried on by this department, and by this branch of the department. I find no fault with the officers; they are only the unfortunate medium through whom the dictates of the men behind the minister are carried out. I do not want to go any further now, but when I have an opportunity, later in the session, of discussing this matter with the minister, I shall have a few things more to say to him. For the present I am happy to tell the House and the country that the minister has been compelled to do the very thing I wanted him to do, except he has not done it nearly so well as it would have been done if he had taken my proposition. But my people will get the benefit of competition to some extent, and I hope they will get \$15 a ton for their hay. Had I not interfered, they would have been selling to Smith for \$12 and Smith would have cleaned up \$75,000 instead of about \$40,000.

Mr. HAZEN: No one knows better than my hon. friend that this discussion is absolutely out of order; but he has wanted an opportunity to make a statement to the House regarding this hay transaction, and, that being the case, I did not want to raise

[Mr. Carvell.]

a point of order, because I think nothing is gained in Committee of Supply by adhering too closely to the rule and confining the discussion to the single item before the Chair. The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) and the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) have talked of the "garbling" of the report. I made the statement supplied by the department as to what occurred, and I think that hon. gentlemen should have accepted that statement. They are not disposed to do so, and so I am obliged to say to the committee that the suspicions of the hon. gentlemen are entirely unwarranted and unfounded. The change in the report had nothing to do with contracts for hay, or with any matters of that sort. That statement I make on the authority of the responsible officials of the department. I believe that statement to be true; I have no doubt of the truth of it.

The matter of the hay contract is pretty fresh in the minds of hon. members. We heard the attack made by the hon. member for Carleton on the Minister of Agriculture and we heard the minister's reply, and every one who heard that discussion knows that the Minister of Agriculture did not come off second best, but that he was able to maintain the position he had taken and to answer completely my hon. friend from Carleton. That hon. gentleman now is posing as the champion of the farmers of his constituency, although the minister showed the House that the hon. gentleman had not been so much the champion of the farmers in the past, but was ready to fine the farmers and punish them if they sold their hay for more than \$8 a ton—not a very large sum to get for hay in the county of Carleton. But I do not intend to go into that, more especially as the hon. gentleman has indicated that he intends to bring it up at a later day when the Minister of Agriculture is in the House. But I was not compelled by political or other considerations to take the course he alleges I have taken. The estimate given to the department when the contract was entered into with the Imperial Hay Company—

Mr. CARVELL: The Atlantic Hay Company.

Mr. HAZEN: The Atlantic Hay Company—I say the information in the possession of the department was that about 15,000 tons of the hay that would be required would be available from New Brunswick this year.