

that if he did not then act, the result might be that the matter would have to be dropped, because the exhumation of the bodies of these diphtheria cases would be almost impossible or useless later on, and because the witnesses would have disappeared, they said: "So much the better." With the facts detailed in that connection by Dr. Mead, and in a letter I have before me, he stated that a full report was sent by him to the Department of Justice, with this attempt to buy or threaten the coroner in the first place, then the successful resort to the courts, we stand face to face with the fact that, through the fault of some one, it seems to me through the fault of the Government, this extraordinary and unfortunate delay has taken place. When I say the fault of the Government, I have some reason for saying so. The Government had no doubts as to their powers to appoint a commission, to spend public money without a special vote of Parliament. When the case of some poor underpaid officer in the service of the Government was charged with being a political partisan, the Government was quite clear as to its powers to send commissions to every part of the land. When the Attorney General of Manitoba, then expecting to get into this Government, thought he could fasten upon his political opponents charges of corruption in the general election of Manitoba, such as stuffing ballot boxes, \$19,000 could be snatched—partly out of the public treasury and partly from other sources, but, in the end, out of the public treasury, every dollar of it—to hire Pinkerton detectives in the United States and send them all over the province of Manitoba, to engage counsel by the score to go upon what they termed a fishing expedition and seek to fasten upon somebody offences to be punished by imprisonment up to two years; but in the case of the death of these two men under the circumstances mentioned by my hon. colleague from Picton (Mr. Bell), there were doubts as to the powers of the Government to ferret out and expose fully the circumstances under which these deaths occurred. I do not know of a case that could be set before the department that should command more prompt and careful attention than this very case. Unless this sort of thing can be exposed, unless it can be shown that the efforts of parties interested, or whoever they were, to cover up the facts will be unsuccessful, what a black name that part of the country, and in fact, all Canada will obtain wherever the facts are known. I trust that before this subject is allowed to pass from the consideration of the House, the Prime Minister himself will give us that which not only are we entitled to from him under the circumstances but which his own judgment should prompt him to give—an assurance that an immediate examination and inquiry will be entered upon, whether by special commission—which it is undoubtedly within

the power of the Government to issue—or by exercise of the authority they have exercised in cases not as much in need of it in the interest of the country to employ detectives or officers or special men to probe this matter to the very bottom. I am suggesting, of course, nothing new in dwelling upon the serious circumstances connected with the horrible fate of these men. After the statement made by the right hon. gentleman's own colleague, even with the partial information on this subject contained in the report of a commission not charged specially with inquiry into this subject but into the general question of the treatment of the men on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, I trust that the hon. Prime Minister will not allow the subject to be disposed of or to pass from the attention of the House without giving a frank and explicit assurance that the case will not merely engage the attention of the Government, but that the Government will use every means at its command to expose all the facts and to make sure that the guilty parties, if any are guilty, shall be brought to justice, and such an example made as will prevent such cruelty—amounting to murder—being again perpetrated in our land. Every one knows how cruelties not half so great as those these men were subjected to, when inflicted upon British seamen in times happily gone by, being made known to the British Parliament, brought about legislation and such prosecutions as wiped out this disgrace from the history of the Empire. Even with regard to dumb beasts, this Parliament has shown the spirit of the people by legislation to prevent brutes being treated with cruelty when sent by ship or by railway. Here you have the case of men, Canadians, young men in the prime of life assisting in the construction of this public work, subsidized by this Parliament, having gone far from home in the hope of bettering their condition, subjected to treatment not merely sufficient to kill them, but so cruel and so horrible that the like of it will hardly be found in any place outside of Siberia.

MR. RICHARDSON. I do not intend to offer more than a very few remarks upon this question. I may say that in my capacity as the editor of a newspaper in Winnipeg, I have received a great many reports with regard to cruelties practised upon the men employed in the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. Now, I have not read the report of the commissioners, not having had the opportunity of doing so; therefore, I cannot speak with regard to the scope of that report. But it seems to me that it is the bounden duty of the Government to inquire into the cost of the road. I have been informed by different parties who, I think, are in a position to judge, that the Canadian Pacific Railway has built the road, at least, up to Kootenay