

attack it at various points more easily than it was possible to do in regard to the other work. It may, perhaps, be interesting to the House for me to glance at the estimates which have been made for those contracts on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and to state the results, so far as it is in my power, down to the present moment. The first contract from the Kaministiquia to Sunshine Creek was a contract for forty-five miles of road from the Kaministiquia to Shebandowan, but twelve and a half miles of that line was abandoned owing, to a change of policy on the part of the Government. The amount of the contract for the whole forty-five miles was \$406,194; but if you deduct the twelve and a-half miles, it would leave the contract price for the thirty-two and a-half miles at \$293,360. I am glad to be able to say that that contract will be completed according to the present estimate--and of course the work is so far completed as to enable one to speak with a great deal of certainty—for \$313,200, or only \$19,840 in excess of the price estimated for in the contract. From Sunshine Creek to English River, contract 25, the present estimate for the work is \$1,417,203, and the contract price was \$1,037,061, and the construction of the work will exceed the contract price by \$380,147. From English River to Eagle River, contract 41, the present estimate for the completing of the work is \$1,767,357, and the contract price was \$2,300,196, or \$532,839 less than the amount we expected to be obliged to pay when the contract was made.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I thought the contract was for \$2,203,000.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, it was for \$2,300,196; and I may say we hope to be required to pay a larger amount, and for this reason: The contract was so made, that if the track was laid during the past season, by the 1st of July, and if the contract was completed by the 1st of July of next year, the contractors were to be entitled to the larger sum named here. Well, it is quite true the rails were not laid by the 1st of July; but the object the Government had in making that contract was attained, and that was to provide the means of attacking the adjoining contract from both ends; and so the work was so far completed as to have the track laid at a comparatively short time after the 1st of July. And as the contractors incurred great additional expense in making that advance, an Order in Council was passed declaring that if they complied with the second portion of the contract, requiring the completion of the work by the 1st of July next year, they should be held to have