

men, and the company have already erected a building in Ottawa by Canadian labour, and have expended a large sum of money among the workmen of this city during the past few months.

Mr. FOSTER. Allow me to set the hon. gentleman right in one respect. I did not want to interrupt his beautiful simile about the die and the soul; but I wish to say that I did not state, and never intended to state, that the die was the soul of the whole business.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The soul won't die.

Mr. FOSTER. That is a witty remark, but I was making an explanation to the Finance Minister. What I said was, that there were two branches of this work, one mechanical and the other what might be called artistic, which was the engraving part, and I said the engraving part, the skill, the art necessary to do the engraving was the soul of the whole business; that the other was merely mechanical. I also made the statement that ninety-one-hundredths of that engraving under the present contract will be done in New York; and I adhere to that statement most thoroughly.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The impression which the House received from what the hon. gentleman said, what all hon. members who heard him must have understood, and all who would read his remarks would have understood the hon. gentleman to mean, except for this explanatory passage, was that a very large part of this contract work was to be done by aliens and foreigners in a city elsewhere, and not in Canada.

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. gentleman will take a bank note and show what is the die portion, and what is the other large portion of the work, I shall feel obliged.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am afraid I am not capable of explaining to the hon. gentleman the details. I do not think that either he or I knows as much about engraving as we ought to know, and I suppose that neither of us could explain the matter.

Mr. FOSTER. I am simply asking for information.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I frankly admit that I do not know all the details of the work.

Mr. FOSTER. Ninety-nine-one-hundredths of the work on a bank note is the die.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I still adhere to the first statement, which I think is the most important one. I understood my hon. friend was raising the question whether the work is going to be done in Ottawa by Canadian labour or done in New York by American labour. That is

Mr. FIELDING.

what the hon. gentleman attempted to convey. If the hon. gentleman thoroughly understands that only 1 per cent of the work will be done by foreigners, and he has made all this row about that 1 per cent, I will accept his explanation. The relation of the die to the work is such that there is some room for the view that the die is one of the tools of the trade. These plates are not engraved by hand, but by machinery, and the die is a part of the machinery through which the plates are produced. But I do not think the public are interested in these technical matters. The public are, however, interested in the question as to where the work will be done, what proportion of the work will be done here, and what proportion abroad, and above all whether the country will receive fair value and whether the contract was awarded to the lowest tenderer. I wish to say a word with respect to the English proposal to which the hon. gentleman referred. He thought it wrong that we should go abroad for tenders, but we thought it was the right thing to make the letting of this contract known abroad. True, there are but few people who could tender for it, but in order to reach that few it became necessary that we should widely distribute the notices, and so we sent them to the High Commissioner's office in London with a request that they might be placed in the hands of the trade. Now, what was the response? My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) has rather conveyed the impression that we dealt in a different manner with the parties who might have tendered in England, from that in which we dealt with the American parties. The English people simply asked whether we were going to insist upon having these notes manufactured at Ottawa, and we said, that we could not waive that condition. We did not waive that condition; they are going to be manufactured in Ottawa by the company which has taken the contract. There was no suggestion on the part of the English parties that they desired to do a part of the work in England. They simply ask us to abandon the condition that the work was to be done in Ottawa. We refused to abandon that for the English parties, and we refused to abandon it for any parties. The contract in that respect has followed the conditions of the specifications, and the work is to be done in the city of Ottawa. But, Sir, the difference between the tender prices of the American Bank Note Company, and the tender price of the British American Bank Note Company is the essence of the whole matter. One other point I may allude to. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) tried to make very much out of the fact, that we had allowed the American Bank Note Company to drop out of their contract the stamped envelopes. He said, that was unremunerative work, and that we were doing a great favour to this American company when we