

Mr. Burland's tender. He had put his tender in in a simple and straightforward way; but he thought he had the game in his hands, and he put up his price \$30,000 above the former price. There was nothing to explain, we had nothing to ask him about. We knew that his price was \$153,000 worse than the other tender. That is why we did not send for Mr. Burland, and that is why we did enter into negotiations with the parties who had offered us the lowest prices, the difference being the large sum which I have mentioned. Now, it is stated that we permitted the American company to depart from the specifications. I do not know that we ought to admit that. My hon. friend from York stated to-day that it was beyond all question a grave departure. Well, I must tell him that some hon. gentlemen no less intelligent than himself, and better informed in law than he is or I am, have taken the view that it was not a departure from the specifications, that the statement in their tender that they desired to make the original dies in their establishment in New York was not a departure from the specifications. I do not urge that view, because I am inclined to think that there was a slight departure from the specifications. But what we had to consider was this: Is the departure from the specifications a material one, having due regard to the amount of money involved for the people of Canada? Reference has been made to-day to a report made by the Deputy Minister, and the impression, I am inclined to think, was left upon the minds of some members that the course I have pursued in this matter was at variance with the recommendation of the Deputy Minister. If such an impression was left on the minds of any hon. member, I desire to remove it. The report of the Deputy Minister pointed out that the matter was one of great importance, and that there were certain questions which should be well and carefully considered before final action should be taken. The enormous difference between the tender of the American Bank Note Company and the tender of the British American Bank Note Company, or the Burland company, struck Mr. Courtney as so remarkable that he thought he might well stop and consider all the circumstances surrounding it. He very properly pointed out that, as respects a few items, there was a possibility that under certain conditions the prices given might prove unfavourable. There were certain stamps for which the price mentioned was quite high. The issue of the stamps specified was a small one. The tenders had to include the cost of engraving, and that made the tender somewhat high. It was pointed out that if by any change in our revenue laws it became necessary to have a larger quantity of those stamps, the price given would be exceedingly high, and while probably we would not want a large quantity, still it

was prudent to protect ourselves in that respect. So we called the attention of the American Bank Note Company to the fact that while their price might be all right for a small issue, it involving the necessity of including in the price the cost of engraving, we thought it possible that circumstances might arise which would require the issue of a larger number of those stamps, and therefore we wanted to know what rates would apply in such an event. The company made a statement, which was perfectly satisfactory, that they were compelled to tender on the quantity specified in the advertisement, but if a larger quantity were required they were prepared to make a lower rate. Thus the precaution Mr. Courtney advised was taken; every material precaution that was advised by Mr. Courtney was taken, and in the end every step was taken with his advice and full knowledge and concurrence. Of course the Minister is responsible, and the Government is responsible. I am not at all disposed to throw any responsibility on a Deputy Minister, and I only allude to this because the remarks of the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) tended to leave the impression that the course of the Minister was at variance with the views of his deputy. I have pointed out that there was this very large difference. I think when there was so much difference it would have been a very foolish act of the Government if they had gone on dealing with the Burland company. The hon. gentleman had much to say respecting that item in the tender of the American Bank Note Company which referred to the making of the dies. The die, he said, is the soul, heart, everything of the whole business, and if we allowed the die to be made abroad that was practically throwing up the whole work. If the hon. gentleman's soul bears no greater proportion to his body than the die bears to the whole undertaking, I am afraid I shall have to regard him as a rather small souled gentleman, because he may be surprised to learn that the dies and all the preliminary work in connection with them amounts to only about \$6,000 out of the contract of \$523,000. I have asked the gentlemen interested, and I have received the information, which I believe to be correct, that all the preliminary work done on this contract, all the work done outside of the city of Ottawa, will involve a payment of not more than \$6,000 out of the total contract of about \$523,000. So it means this, that instead of crushing a native industry, instead of breaking down one of our Canadian workingmen's establishments, what we have done is to accept the offer of gentlemen who are giving us reasonable and fair prices and are going to do one per cent of the work in their establishment in New York, while 99 per cent of the work is to be done in Canada by Canadian work-