

but it is very serious, and the responsibility equally serious on the Superintendent." Mr. Page's evidence shows that the damage and loss to the country did amount to \$25,000, and there is no evidence to the contrary. The country is to lose \$25,000 through the neglect of this man, who is paid for managing the Welland Canal. I will not take up the time of the House any longer with this matter. I could go on for a week discussing it, but I hope I have good sense enough to avoid tiring hon. Senators. I will say, however, before sitting down, that this official is wasting the people's money still. I hold the Government responsible for it. The people of this country will hold them responsible, when they find, as the report, when laid on the Table will show, that the officials are not discharging their duty in connection with the management of the Welland Canal. The disaster by which the country lost \$25,000 is not the only one which has resulted in serious loss on the Welland, as you will see by the following paragraph, which I find in the *St. Catharines Star* of the 23rd inst.:—

“WHO IS TO BLAME?”

“The water was let into the old canal at Allanburg on Tuesday, at 4 o'clock, and the work at the broken Lock 13 not being completed the work was flooded during the night, destroying the new cement work to a large extent. To-day the gates at Allanburg have been ordered closed, and the work of unwatering the canal again is begun, thus delaying the opening of the old canal some days.

“Another account says: The men had hardly completed work on Lock 13 as the water whirled into the canal, and in consequence the tools, etc., got pretty well mixed up, making it impossible to tell which was which.”

Now, anyone who knows what it is to use cement in a stone wall will understand the sort of judgment that was exercised in letting water into the canal before the cement was dry. I have a letter stating that they did not even puddle behind the wall, but threw clay into the water beside the locks. That is the way work is done on the Welland Canal. No doubt it will have to be done over again next winter; yet the Government persist in keeping incompetent men in charge of this important work. The Premier says that by the report of the Commissioner the integrity of Mr. Ellis is maintained. I disagree with the right hon. gentlemen. I say, let them lay the evidence on the Table of this House; let it be published and distributed through the country, and I have no fear

that the people will sustain me, and not my leader.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not think that my hon. friend has shown that he differs from me or from the head of the Department of Railways, because neither the head of the Department, nor myself, has pronounced any opinion, so far as I know, upon the conduct of the official of whom my hon. friend complains. The facts of this matter are just these, as I am informed: About the commencement of this session of Parliament the Commissioner made his report. This report is the result, according to him, of his enquiry. He accompanies this report with a quantity of evidence—my hon. friend knows exactly how many pages it is. I do not.

HON. MR. McCALLUM—I can tell you, if you wish to know—it is 2,371 pages.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—He sends a report giving what he conceives to be the result of the evidence, which appears in 2,371 pages. That report, as I say, was laid before the Government a little after the time of the commencement of the present session of Parliament. Another report—an informal report—was sent in by the Commissioner, and for a time the Government were doubtful whether they should treat this second report as an official document at all, or regard it in any way. I told my hon. friend that if they should conclude to use it I would lay it on the Table of the House without any further motion. I have to-day discussed the matter with the right hon. gentleman who presides over the Department of Railways, and I understand that in consequence of the business with which he has to deal during this session of Parliament it has been impossible for him even to read one page of these 2,371 pages of evidence, and therefore it has been quite impossible for him to come to any conclusion as to the correctness or incorrectness of Mr. Wood's report, or as to whether or not the charges which my hon. friend has made against Mr. Ellis are well founded or not. It has been utterly impossible for him, under the pressure of business which he has to carry during a session of Parliament, to study so voluminous, so enormous a quantity of evidence as has been placed before him, and he has been obliged to relegate that labor until after Parliament rises. I wished to make this