

policy of canal transportation was adopted and entered upon before confederation, and up to that period \$20,692,244 had been spent upon the canal system of the country. The decision to enlarge the Welland and St. Lawrence canals to 12 feet was adopted in 1871, under Sir John Macdonald's leadership, and the work was well in hand, certainly as far as contracts were concerned, when Mr. Mackenzie came into power in 1873. Mr. Mackenzie is not here; a distinct denial has been given to the statement I made as to the 14-foot depth. Let Mr. Mackenzie speak for himself. On February 8, 1875, Mr. Mackenzie said, *Hansard*, page 20 :

It is not the intention of the government to go to a greater depth than twelve feet of water. I may tell my hon. friend that the harbour capacity of the lakes does not seem to fairly contemplate a greater depth of water than that, as they could not possibly be used without an enormous outlay, and the outlay on the canal even would be so serious as to deter the government from entering into such a great expense. We have given the question careful consideration, and think that the plan adopted is the one we must adhere to.

On the same day, in answer to Mr. Wood, at present, I believe, a member of this House, Mr. Mackenzie said:

It is the intention of the government to proceed with the enlargement of the St. Lawrence canals at an early date. There is not any pressing hurry for them, however, as we believe transhipment to smaller vessels in Kingston harbour can be accomplished without any very great expense. The plan for the ultimate works is to make the locks the same size. The survey has been made upon an intention to deepen the St. Lawrence River to no greater depth than twelve feet. The expense to get fourteen feet would be still more enormous than to get the same depth on the Welland, as it would involve the deepening of a large portion of the channel of the river.

And in 1879, *Hansard*, page 1656, he declared that:

Any attempt to get fourteen feet below Kingston should be given up as impracticable.

The Liberal-Conservative government came in and they adopted and carried out the 14-foot basis. What has been done? From 1863 to 1873 inclusive, \$693,834 was spent on the canals. That was just the commencement of the work after confederation. From 1874 to 1878 inclusive, under hon. gentlemen opposite, \$13,267,868 was spent. From 1879 to 1896 inclusive, when the right hon. gentleman, the Prime Minister of this country declares, that they proceeded at a snail's pace and did practically nothing, \$32,418,690 was spent. During that time Liberal-Conservatives had introduced the scheme of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal and practically finished it, they had built the Murray Canal and subsidized the great Canadian Pacific Railway, besides which they had not failed in deepening and widening the harbours and river stretches all

over this country. These canals were how far finished? I intend to complete this subject while I am at it. I have in my hand a return which I asked the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), to bring down; he brought it down at the end of last session, and here is the analysis of it. I asked him for all the canals completed, cost thereof previous to or up to July 1, 1896. Here they are :

Name.	Depth. ft. in.	Cost.
Welland	13 9	\$23,769,353
Murray	14 0	1,247,470
Beauharnois	9 0	1,611,690
Total		\$26,628,513

I also asked him for a return of the canals under construction on July 1, 1896, with the contracts then running, and this is the return :

Name.	Cost to July 1, 1896.
Sault Ste. Marie.....	\$ 3,448,011
Galops	1,401,365
Rapide Plat	1,496,078
Cornwall	4,008,037
Soulanges	2,275,908
Lachine	7,536,439
Lake St. Louis.....	54,383
St. Lawrence River.....	1,201,795
Total	\$21,422,016

In addition to these contracts running and to be completed there were also brought down these figures to be added to the expenditure :

Name.	Cost to complete under existing contract.
Galops	\$ 257,360
Rapide Plat	286,911
Cornwall	515,096
Soulanges	2,093,539
Lachine	421,695
Lake St. Louis	183,617
Total	\$3,758,218

Now, Sir, I asked besides, what was the amount of money which is estimated to be necessary to complete the system in addition to the contracts existing on July 1, 1896, as they have been worked out or the money paid. How much does it amount to? It amounts to \$6,151,000, and they have given contracts for a little over \$4,600,000 from July 1, 1896, up to the present time. There is no necessity at all to comment upon that statement. I only bring it to the attention of the House and the country to show what hazardous proceeding it is for his own party to allow the present Prime Minister to get entirely loose upon a public platform in this country. I do not propose to spend any more time upon that branch of the subject, although it is a fruitful one. When we come to the budget I think this House will have something more to say in reference to it.