

trust that next year a new minister will occupy the place now held by the Minister of Public Works, but a new minister from this side of the House. There have been several different gentlemen occupying that position recently, and as a result the hon. gentleman who now occupies the position had nothing to do with the matters I am going to deal with. But I do say that when a gentleman occupying the responsible position of Minister of Public Works for Canada has a staff under him such as the Minister of Public Works has in this country, it is regrettable that men who are tendering on public works involving the expenditure of thousands of dollars, can openly and in the most barefaced manner enter into collusion, and, whether by ignorance or design such collusion is not noticed by the minister. I hold in my hand first, the tender of the so-called Grant company on the work at Waubaushene, I also have the tenders of the Grant company on the work at Midland; I also have the two tenders of the Spohn company on the Midland work and on the Waubaushene work, and I challenge the Minister of Public Works to say that he is not driven to admit that the tenders of the Grant company for these two works and the tenders of the Spohn company for these works, are in the self-same handwriting. It is indisputable, and no man who looks at the tenders can say otherwise.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I may say to my hon. friend that after he made his previous statement to the House, I looked at the figures, and although I am not an expert in handwriting, I would say that they bear every appearance of having been written by different hands. I say the figures giving the price of the material have every evidence of being written by a different hand. I examined with great care, and that would be the judgment I would form.

Mr. BENNETT. Well, I am glad the minister has practically admitted that the body of the tenders is written by the same hand.

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, I do not admit that at all, because I am not sufficient of an expert in handwriting to know, but I think I am sufficient of an expert to know that the figures giving the price of the different materials bear not the slightest resemblance to each other, and do not afford the slightest indication that they were written by the same person.

Mr. BENNETT. Well, before the discussion closes I shall show these documents to other hon. gentlemen, and I think they will verify my contention, and will say that it is indisputably correct. Not only are the tenders of the Grant company and, as I allege of the Spohn company, written in the same handwriting but the figures are also the same.

Another proof lies in the fact that the envelopes are distinctly the same and are addressed in the same handwriting. The signatures to the tenders put in by the Penetanguishene Company are in the handwriting of a man named Kastner who was connected with the Penetanguishene Company, and any man who looks at the handwriting of Kastner which is irregular and ragged, and compares it with the figures will see that they were never written by the same man. More than that the envelopes which inclose the tenders—for the two tenders of the Grant Company were in one envelope and the two tenders of the Spohn Company were in one envelope—were, according to the postmark, both mailed in Ottawa on the same day proving that the two representatives of this company, admitting that they each mailed his own envelope, were in the city. More than that, there are two marks on these envelopes which denote that they were received at the department consecutively. I shall pass these over to my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) who can see that what I say is correct.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I do not think he is a Sherlock Holmes.

Mr. BENNETT. But he is able to detect a palpable fraud and anybody can detect that this is one.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Was there not another tender?

Mr. BENNETT. I am coming to that. Apart from these two tenders of the Grant and the Spohn Company there was a third tender for the Midland work, that was the tender of the Stewart Company, of Ottawa, which was at 30 cents and perhaps when the minister comes to make his explanation he will explain to the House how it was that the Stewart Company did not proceed with the work, their tender on the Midland work being the lowest. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Aylesworth) was at that time acting as Minister of Public Works. For some reason best known to himself, whether it was due the fact that the Mackay Company had done the work there at figures ranging from 15 cents to 18 cents in prior years and that then the lowest tender was 53 cents, or whether it was due to the fact that Stewart refused to go on with the work at 30 cents, I do not know, but the tender of the Stewart Company was not acted upon and although the Grant Company were the next lowest tenderers at 53 cents, the acting Minister of Public Works (Mr. Aylesworth) did not award the contract to them. I make the charge that Mr. A. G. Mackay was a party to this tendering by the Grant Company and that he was thoroughly conversant with it.

Mr. PARDEE. What have you to prove that?