

it is at the present moment when the humblest workman in Canada is prevented from crossing the boundary to do a day's work in the United States. Is this a time when a prominent man in our country, a contractor who has done his work faithfully, should be treated with injustice and a member of our Government should cross our border and seek in the United States, parties, not to receive the tender by open, fair, public competition, but to be treated with a consideration that has invariably been denied to any Canadian contractor. Whenever any Canadian contractor, I care not in what part of Canada he is, sends in a tender that does not comply with the specifications, it is the invariable practice to treat that tender as waste paper. You may use it to say to another contractor, will you do the work on the same terms as this tenderer offers to do it on? That is the only legitimate way in which such an offer could be used. Why, Sir, the Order in Council that was passed is of a most extraordinary character. Here are tenders invited by the Minister of Finance for a most important and delicate public work. And what happened? Why, instead of the hon. gentleman being able to go down to his colleagues, the members of the Government of Canada and say: Here is the lowest tender, am I authorized to accept it? He could not say that, because it was not true. What he did get was contained in this sentence:

The Minister, therefore, recommends, in view of such saving, that he be authorized to accept the tender of the American Bank Note Company, provided that the details of the contract can be arranged with the company to his satisfaction.

Not, provided that the specifications that were offered alike for the consideration of the Burland Company and the English tenderers and everybody else were complied with, but that he might have permission to go and negotiate a new contract that was not provided for in the specifications. The hon. gentleman talks of the employment that has been given to the citizens of Ottawa in the erection of this new building. Does he plume himself upon that when he sees the capital destroyed in the building that has been erected by the citizens of Ottawa, standing alongside of it, half a million of money sunk by a Canadian contractor in faithfully discharging his duty to the Government? Why, Sir, on these very dies, the hon. gentleman knows that Mr. Burland was in a position, if he had treated Mr. Burland with that justice to which every man in his position is entitled, to have saved to the Government of Canada a very large sum of money. Mr. Burland found that he was in a position where his property was likely to be destroyed, and he concluded to perform those services not only upon the same terms that are contained in the American Bank Note Company's tender, but to comply to the letter with the specifications.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

and to save to the Government of Canada all this money that is to be paid for the manufacture of those dies and plates and other things that are now permitted to be manufactured in the city of New York. I do not believe that such a thing would be entertained by any Government anywhere, as to go to a foreign country to get work of that kind executed, when one of the citizens of their own country was able, and had shown himself qualified, to perform that work in a most efficient manner. I do not believe you can find any other Government that would go into a foreign country and entrust to foreigners their dies and plates. I do not mean to say that the work could not be so guarded as to protect the country from loss, but I say it opens a field for fraud upon Canada that will be appreciated by any person who knows the character of such work, and the means and the opportunities that will be opened for the contractor to be imposed upon by his own employees, with the result of setting on foot a fraudulent currency in Canada. Now, the hon. gentleman talks about stamped envelopes. Why, Sir, it strikes one as a most extraordinary thing after reading those papers. Where did the hon. gentleman get this hint about stamped envelopes? Why was it that the suggestion came from him? It is a curious thing that the hon. gentleman should go out of his way to suggest an alteration in the contract which was going to take \$5,000 or \$6,000 of public money out of the treasury of Canada, which would be required to obtain plant for the Queen's Printer to do that very work. The hon. gentleman has given us no explanation of that. Why is it that the suggestion coming from the hon. gentleman to his American friend, to this foreign contractor, was so quickly seized upon if that work was to be a profit to him? Why, Sir, it was known at once, and the eagerness with which this American contractor closed upon the Finance Minister's proposition to eliminate that part of the work, shows that importance was attached by the contractor to having that feature of his contract eliminated. Now, Sir, I am astounded when the hon. gentleman tells this House that the Deputy Minister approved of this transaction. Why, there is no man who can read English but will say that the Deputy Minister, a man of great ability, a man of great experience, as every member of this House knows, a man understanding this subject infinitely better than it was possible for the Finance Minister to understand it—I say it is impossible to read Mr. Courtney's letter without finding in it the most emphatic condemnation of the course pursued by the Minister of Finance that it is possible to put into the English language, especially when we look at the relative position of the Deputy Minister of Finance and his chief, of the letter that Mr. Courtney addressed to the