

Council to be relieved of his responsibility, and this can only be done on one or two pleas, either that it is an abnormal work and cannot be done by contract, or that the work is of great urgency and necessity. Neither of these two claims is put forward in the present case, and while the hon. Minister may be doing the work by contract, he is not doing it by tender and contract. Suppose a gentleman from another country visits Toronto harbour. He looks over it and sees the vast amount of business that is being transacted, and he is told that the harbour is being completed by the Canadian Department of Public Works. If he should ask who is doing the dredging the answer given must be : a painter in Toronto. The inhabitant of another clime will be overwhelmed with wonder as to the business capacity of the Dominion Government, which when it requires a large quantity of dredging to be done in the harbour of Toronto, confers with a painter and gives him so much per hour for doing the work.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). But suppose the man is not a painter ?

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. Minister tell us what the man is ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He is not a painter, but is a large contractor.

Mr. FOSTER. He is a painter.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He is a large contractor.

Mr. FOSTER. Contractor, what of ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Public works.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, now.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. And before. He is a member of a large contracting firm. I let the hon. gentleman go on, but I did not want the ex-Finance Minister to fall into the same mistake.

Mr. FOSTER. I think we have information just as good as the information of my hon. friend (Mr. Paterson). The fact is, this man is not a mechanic of any kind at all. He does not own a dredge. He is simply a man who has given extraordinary services of late to the Liberal party. He is a man who does not understand dredging himself, has no dredging plant and does not follow that kind of work. But, in order to reward Mr. Phin for his political services, my hon. friend (Mr. Tarte), without calling for tender, says to him : You can have the dredging at the old rate of \$8 per hour ? Mr. Phin takes the contract, and then he casts around him for some one to do the dredging and he gets hold of a man who does own a dredge, and he hires him to do the work. Both men make a profit. The man who has the dredge, and who works it is quite willing to do the work for the Government at the amount

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. Phin pays him, for he would rather be paid by the Government than by Mr. Phin, but in that case you see there would be no farming out the work, and there would be no payment for political services rendered, and so Mr. Phin steps in as a middleman between the practical man who owns the dredge and does the dredging and the Government which pays ; and Mr. Phin pockets a very neat sum per hour, and a very neat profit per day, and is in the way of richly recouping himself for what arduous services he has given to the Liberal party. Does any hon. friend (Mr. Tarte) stand up here to-day and justify that system before the country ? Is that the way he is going to carry out the public works of this country ? There are Ministers in the Cabinet who do carry out the spirit of the law, and do carry out the traditions of government, and when they have \$15,000 or \$20,000 to spend they ask for tenders and give the work by contract. Take the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), for whom I believe my hon. friend (Mr. Tarte) some time ago professed a very ardent friendship ; went so far as to write a letter in the public press in which he eulogizes the Minister of Trade and Commerce, in which he declares that the world does not rightly judge the Minister of Trade and Commerce, that they had an idea that the Minister of Trade and Commerce has been morose, and a little sour, and a little on the off-side of humanity ; and the Minister of Public Works has got at the soft heart of the Minister of Trade and Commerce and finds that the milk of humanity bubbles warm and plenteous from him. Now, if the Minister of Trade and Commerce has a contract to give for a steamship service he does not go and find a tailor or a painter and say to him : for party services rendered I will give you so much for this contract and you can get a man who owns steamers to run it. No, he puts an advertisement in the newspapers, accepts the lowest tender, and the money is expended in that way. But the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) does not do that. Business is business with the Minister of Public Works. He picks out a good party man ; he makes him farmer-general ; he gives him a good, sound percentage upon every hour's work done, and the fact is that my hon. friend (Mr. Tarte) is giving to this gentleman (Mr. Phin) some two or three dollars an hour.

Mr. TAYLOR. Three dollars an hour clear profit.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Phin walks around ; he does not supervise the job, for that is done by a Government inspector ; he pays so much to the man who does the dredging and he pockets the difference. Sir, there should be no middlemen in this matter. My hon. friend (Mr. Tarte) should carry out business on business principles, as they are