

out the report of an engineer, without the report of a single expert, without a particle of knowledge on the subject, in his gross ignorance placed a sum in the estimates to construct a work of which he knew nothing. What course did the hon. gentleman propose to justify himself by now? The Canal Commissioners reported on it, as a whole, favorably. And who were these Canal Commissioners? The first was Mr. CALVIN of Kingston. Did the hon. gentleman call him one of the first engineers of the country? What did Mr. CALVIN know of engineering? What did GEORGE LAIDLAW know of it? They had one respectable man on the commission, and he guided the other commissioners very much like the individual described by the poet BURNS as conducting a squad of very disreputable looking persons to a very disreputable place. Yet these were the persons who were to guide the whole policy of this country. Because Mr. CALVIN said something about the canals, that was authority for anything and everything to be done by the hon. gentleman. A more reckless administrator of public affairs, and one more dangerous to be entrusted with the expenditure of public money was never in office than the hon. member, and every one must be as reckless as himself or be condemned in that wild, passionate and turbulent manner which characterized him. But, the hon. gentleman said, Boards of Trade had approved of it. Well, what were they but mere bands of local politicians associated together to ride some pet hobby, and he (Mr. MACKENZIE) told the Boards of Trade he did not pay the least respect to any of their recommendations on engineering matters. If the hon. gentleman thought he (Mr. MACKENZIE) was to be guided in his policy by the speeches of men of this kind, merely because they were members of Boards of Trade, he entirely misunderstood his character. The hon. gentleman was pleased to say that he (Mr. MACKENZIE) had given notice publicly that tenders would be invited some time in the month of January for this work, and that it was done for the purpose of deluding and deceiving the public. He threw back the taunt. He never did and never would deceive the public on any matter whatever. Where he made promises he endeavored to keep them, and he made none that he did not believe to be in the public inter-

*Hon. Mr. Mackenzie.*

est. With reference to his statement that there was not information in the department to warrant the Government to undertake the work, the hon. gentleman should accept it or apply somewhere else for information.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER said an engineer had been employed four years on the work.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he had only been a year and a half employed by the present Government.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER said he was willing to let the engineer say whether there was not information enough in the Department already to commence the work.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE invited the hon. member to bring the engineer to the bar of the House and prove it, and promised every possible facility, by sub-committee or otherwise, to make good his assertion. It was time there should be an end to these reckless denunciations of public men and members of this House, because they chose to express their deliberate opinions. When he (Mr. MACKENZIE) made a statement to the House as head of a department, he did so knowing that he was correct, and the engineers of the department would bear out every word he said. He expected early in January to have been able before the House rose to have obtained tenders and submitted them with the most explicit information regarding the work. He found, however, that the department, so far as this work was concerned, was in a state of utter confusion; nothing had been done in regard to the matter, except to place a sum in the estimates in order to deceive the people of Cumberland and of New Brunswick about election time. And yet the hon. member chose to rise in his place and make a passionate appeal to his following in order to make an attack upon the Government. He would say nothing about the reproaches cast against other hon. members, and when he held out, as he had to-night, the impression, with a view to form that impression on the public mind, that this project was opposed by Ontario members, it was necessary to call attention to the fact that no Ontario member said a word about the matter the other night. The discussion was entirely left, and in his opinion properly left, altogether to the members for the Maritime Provinces.