bridges are intended to give strength and examination he suddenly fell into the er policy. (Applause.) at the same time lightness. Comparison has been drawn between railway and highway bridges. The great difference lies in the fact that railway bridges are built of roll sections and the highway bridges largely of built sections; at least those that are built in this province are of built sections. A highway bridge can be built of roll sections to carry a certain strain, but beyond that point it is not safe to go, and this is the practice in building bridges of roll sections; on the other hand railway bridges can be built of heavy material and that being heavy in proportion to its length—if that is the way it is figured-it means the more money and consequently, can be built cheaper. There is more profit to the foot and consequently can be built more cheaply. In speaking of a strain Mr. Fish said he would compare it to a wagon built light which would do to ride around the streets and would bear a certain strain, but it would be a very difficult thing to get a light wagon to carry a heavy load. That is just the difference betwen a highway bridge and a railway

Mr. Carvell-And the light costs more per pound than the heavy. Mr. Fish-Being built that way, it costs more per pound to build them, inasmuch as there is more labor placed upon them. It shows how entirely unfair would be any comparison we could make in regard to price, unless we actually take the very structure itself, get all the cost of erecting the structure as we did, put that down and figure up; that is the only way to get actually at the cost and to know if that lost is a fair one and that is what we had to decide. Mr. Fish felt no justice whatever could be done in arriving at a conclusion without taking these matters into consideration, and with the rest of the committee he was very careful in talking these matters over and considering the evidence given by the experts in regard to these points. He failed to find one of the six who did not agree with him on that point that built sections cost more than roll sections. Our bridges are constructed largely of built sections, and when the honorable member made a comparison from this notorious blue sheet and made considerable amusement for us, it is no comparison whatever. (Applause.) The history of this blue sheet we all know. There is food here for reflection for a long time to come and a man might spend a great deal of time gathering considerable information from that sheet to arrive at some conclusions in regard to our own bridges. It was very kind of Mr. Roy to prepare this sheet and bring it down here to us. (Laughter and aplause.) Mr. rather not make such information public Fish regretted to hear the opposition advise him not to give it up after coming here and they had considerable trouble to force it from him. However they had got this sheet and it was a very valuable one. Mr. Roy had sent away up to Ontario for a few contracts and tenders that were mentioned on that sheet and which the committee afterwards learned and Mr. Roy was very careful in sending to send for gation. Mr. Peters showed very clearly bridges built at a loss to himself. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Fish did not know why Mr. Roy had done that unless it was to tell how scheaply bridges could be built and perhaps lead the committee into a trap. Mr. Roy had travelled about 1,400 miles from Hamilton, Ontario, down to Hunter's | the evidence given by Messrs, Sefton and Brook in Neva Scotia and built a bridge Lockhart, who had pointed out on the there for the magnificent profit of \$6.58. (Laughter and applause.) That reminded him (Fish) that there were two classes of people in this world who worked, the one for their living and the other for their health. (Laughter.) He thought that Mr. Roy had acted dishonestly with his company in putting down the profit on the bridge at \$6.58; he could have credited the company with \$300 on acount of his trip to the seaside for his health. (Laughter.) The other bridge showed a profit of \$5.19. (Hear, hear.)

What are we to think of expert witnesses coming here to tell the truth, the whole truth, and attempting to give the committee information consisting of contracts of bridges built at a loss. Does it not show on its face a gross attempt to deceive us? (Hear, hear.)

While our friends would laugh and say that Mr. Roy's evidence is of all the evidence given the only one of any importance, they will need to bolster up Mr. Roy's evidence all they can; it will need all the help they can give it, for the more we examine it the more do we find Mr. Roy came here as a prejudiced witness.

Mr. Fish resumed after recess. He said that when the House took recess he was going on to refer to the witnesses who gave evidence on behalf of Mr. Hazen before the investigating committee. Mr. Roy began by teling us what a great man he was. He told us that he was an associate member of the Canadian Institute of Engineers, and that if it had not been for the opposition of this House requiring his services in connection with the bridge investigation he would ere this have been an associate member of the American Inan asociate member of the American Institute of Engineers and also of the Eng- all? (Applause.) He claimed that the lish Institute of Engineers. He (Fish) could imagine he heard the American eagle scream as it winged its way to heaven and pinned his regalia to a star. (Laughter.) He could imagine he heard the British lion roar as he saw another bright and shining jewel for his crown. (Laughter and applause.) He was glad for the sake of these institutes that the element of the cost of highway bridges was not included in their curriculum. (Laughter.) Very early in the investigation Mr. Roy impressed the comittee with the fact that he was a prejudiced witness and consequently untit to give expert testimony, and he (Fish) was not surprised that Mr. Roy's evidence was the subject of so much ridicule, because in that gentleman's evidence what tractors. If private firms and corporahe knows is very badly mixed up with what he does not know. (Applause.) He told us that he visited the Lefebvre bridge, that he found some diagonal rods loose and some heavier than was necessary, and he found fault with the rivetting because Pugsley had been asked to try and per the opposition it was changed to a white it up was a matter of some surprise to me, we had no wind-iamer to make the heads as smooth as a bald-headed-man, (Laugh-I phy to come here and give evidence, but | into our hands it became a black printter), and looking down he had probably it seemed to him (Fish) that when these seen mud. (Hear, hear.) He next visit- people would not come at the request of color it is it has been across the floor so ed the Salisbury bridge and told us it was the leader of the opposition it was a pret- often. (Laughter.) a bridge after his own heart. He must ty good intimation that they did not want have "stood on this bridge at midnight." Affected his heart! No wonder he did not | they could furnish any information if they notice that his best girl had one shoe off:

Perhaps when he saw that one shoe was partly off he took it for granted that the New Glasgow, had told him (Fish) that he ing the evidence of Mr. Arnold, a pracother could not be in that state. On that had lost money on the bridges built by tical man, and that of the other practical if the production of it has given as much bridge everything that Mr. Roy saw was him in Nova Scotia. As to the prices men brought here, and of Mr. Peters, who perfect. He visited another bridge and which have been paid by our government certainly showed the committee that he that also was perfect. These two latter for highway bridges, the bills were all be- fully understood his business, as every bridges were built by upper Canadian fore the committee, and he (Fish) could one who attended the committee must firms, while the poor unfortunate bridges not see that there was anything but what admit, I believe the present policy of constructed by our New Brunswick firms was charged at a fair price, and he thought building permanent bridges is the best. were full of faults. According to Mr.Roy the prices paid for bridges were as low as | When we are old or perhaps are gone there was nothing good about them, and could be secured anywhere. Although the then it will be that the people who folthey had cost two prices. That was about expenditure on the bridges represented a low us will give thanks that such a policy considerable amount of money it was all had been inaugurated by the present govthe substance of Mr. Roy's evidence. paid out for the bridges and there was not erument, and feel that such a policy un-

(Laughter and applause.)

groove where he knew nothing, and from on the part of the government, or any that out it was almost impossible to get member of the government. It matters litanything out of him, and what was the how much the opposition may strive to bolster up their discreditable charge. The fact remains that only a fair price was paid for bridges; no exhorbitant or excessive prices were paid; there was no neglect of duty, but the evidence given before the committee was an overwhelming confirmation of the wisdom of the government's policy of having a high class bridge built in our own province and at a fair and reasonable price. (Applause.)

dragged from him was told in a very

doubtful sort of way. The evidence of

Prof. Swain was not such as to enable the

committee to decide as to whether these

bridges were costing too much or not. He

read from pamphlets, contracts, memor-

andum books and other sources of infor-

mation, but he was not able to state from

his own experience what the cost should

be of bridges such as were under investiga-

tion. He referred to the Boston subway,

to a large bridge over the Charles River

and to some other large structures with

which he had been connected, and he stat-

ed that the steel work in the Boston sub-

way was comparable to that on the True-

man Pond bridge. There is no question

that they are comparable, and they are

comparable in this way: Supose we take

a piece of rolled iron one foot long and one

inch by a half inch, and we will take the

weight at 10 pounds at two cents per

pound, making 20 cents. We will take an-

other piece of similar iron of the same

length two inches by three-quarters of an

inch, and we will put its weight at 25

pounds at two cents per pound, making

50 cents. They are comparable only as 20

cents is to 50 cents. In other words they

are comparable only in form and not

otherwise, and so with the Boston subway

plause). On the other hand Messrs. Sef-

ton, Lockhart and Arnold gave most im-

portant testimony.Mr. Arnold examined

the bridges, and he saw at once the superi-

ority of the bridges built by our New

Brunswick firms. He saw that they were

uper province concerns. He showed to

the committee that the labor expended

upon bridges built by our own firms was

much greater than upon the bridges built

Hamilton Bridge Company. We are get-

and if they have cost a little money now

he did not answer in the freest, fullest

and most satisfactory way. Mr. Fish re-

ferred to the fact that Mr. Peters had

been willing to produce a list of the stock-

holders of the company, but he stated

frankly to the committee that he would

and he (Fish) was pleased to be able to

say that the leader of the oposition was

He (Fish) had learned from Mr. Peters

later the names of the stockholders, and

he could not see why those names should

be made public, as they had no bearing

at all upon the questions under investi-

to the committee that the price for bridges

was made up in exactly the same way as

the company made up its prices for stoves,

furnaces and other things manufactured

by them. They simply charged the regular

profit on bridges. Mr. Fish referred to

used in building a roof on a building in

Halifax. The committee decided not to

receive such evidence, and they were justi-

fied in that decision, as evidence of that

character was even more ridiculous than

comparing the Boston subway with the

Trueman Pond bridge. Then they com-

plain with regard to Mr. Johnson. He

had been asked by the chairman to bring

certain papers, but he brought only those

which suited him and which the leader

of the opposition asked for. The com-

mittee therefore decided not to hear his

not come back was because he was afraid

to come. The excuse that his secretary

would not allow him to bring the papers

falls to the ground when it is remembered

that he allowed him to bring a portion

of the papers, and if a portion why not

committee acted perfectly right in the

course pursued in reference to Mr. John-

that contracts were given out without ten-

Mr. Fish next referred to the charge

the Trueman Pond Bridge. (Ap-

MR. ROBINSON'S SPEECH.

The Bridge Charges an Election Dodge and a Scheme by Upper Province Concerns to Crush Out N. B. Industries.

Mr. Robinson said: I did not intend to make any remarks on the matter before the House save to make an explanation. happen to be a stockholder in the Record Foundry Company and under the rules of the house I think it would be only right I should state why I wil vote on this question. (The honis not a matter of privilege and that he (Mr. Robinson) has a right to vote.) When the bridge charges were first promulgated throughout the length and breadth of the province it was my opinion that it was only an election dodge and a scheme on the part of those concerns in not of the same class as those built by the Ontario and Quebec to drive out our little concerns, with the backing up of the opposition. (Applause.) Such was the impresion formed in my mind at the time. Since then I have followed closely the difby the Dominion Bridge Company and the ferent lines taken up as this matter was discsused in the House and before the ting a permanent bridge that is permanent people and I have also read some of the evidence given before the committee and I they will more than pay for themselves. want frankly to say that after so doing I am still of the opinion that it is after all (Applause.) Mr. Peters' evidence was only a political question and I am preparmost satisfactory, and he answered quesed to state, conscientiously, after looking tions in such a manner as to give the cominto the matter that I do not see how mittee a very clear idea of the manner of anyone can take any other position. (Hear, manufacturing bridges. There was not hear.) one question that was asked him which

It would seem that they compare it like unto a house-I may say almost in frame -without any of the so called ginger-bread work. They do not take into consideration or make any allowance for the thousand and one things, each small in itself, which are necessary for the full completion of the house; and so with a bridge, they fail to take into consideration many things which are ne cessary to its completion bethe first to say that it was not necessary fore ready for traffic. I do not think that to produce them just then. (Applause.) is a fair argument nor do I think that the charges have been well laid. There is nothing before this house to justify the statement of the last speaker (Mr. Melanson) to whom I listened with pleasure, that the cost of the bridges before the new policy was only 4 cents per pound and that they now average 81 cents per pound. The cost of those bridges has been given so frequently that I need not repeat each one, but the result shows no such thing as that spoken of by the last speaker and where he got his figures from I do not know but certainly they we re not stated

To follow the matter out to its logical plans that were hung on the walls the difconclusion it must be borne in mind that ferent parts which go to make up the suthere are great differences in the manuperstructures, and he (Fish) would venfacturing of bridge as in other things. ture to say that any man looking at those Local circumstances must be considered, plans, no matter how limited his experithe connecting links between the strucence, would be forced to the conclusion ture and the banks, whether camel back that the bridges which have been built or truss bridge, whether over a swift or in this province are far superior to the slow running river; and therefore I say bridges built by the upper Canadian firms. that the circumstances must enter into (Applause.) A great deal has been said the element of cost-in short everything under the existing conditions at the time about the exclusion of evidence before the committee, and he would say a word or of building must be considered. (Applause). I do not think it would take any two with regard to that, because he felt one approaching this question with an unthat the opposition in making that charge were simply trying to excite political prebiased mind a very long time, after reading the evidence given before the comjudice throughout the province. The first mittee, to come to the conclusion that the was the case of Mr. Donald, whom the opbridges built by the present government position wanted to bring here to show the are superior in every way to any of the cost of some rolled ribs purchased by him bridges built by upper Canadian concerns. from the Record Foundry Company and

before the committee. (Applause.).

(Applause.) I might also refer, before taking my seat, to the class of evidence which has | plause). been produced before the committee. It does strike me, and, I think, it will strike any reasonable man in this house and any reasonable person in this province that you cannot expect to have a case proved out of the mouths of witnesses such as were produced in support of the charges you consider that out of this broad continent of America that the only persons produced before the committee to support evidence until he procured all the papers the charges made are Prof. Swayne of Bosasked for. He went back to Montreal for ton and Mr. Roy. Prof. Swayne is a (Fish) had no doubt the reason he did a person with any knowledge whatever of the construction of highway bridges such as are built in this province; but the fact is that his experience has been confined to the construction of such works as subway at the same place and similar works. Mr. Roy is the manager of a rival concern, a concern which has been trying for years to get down into the prov-

Hon. Mr. Emmerson-Still it looks very to come, and that they could not see that blue for the opposition. (Applause.) Mr. Robinson-Yes, very blue. (Laughdid come. The class of bridges built in | ter.) I did not intend to speak to the Nova Scotia are largely rolled section | question at all and therefore prepared no bridges, and where they are built sections speech and simply rose to make an ex- given it up in spite of their duces tecum. they are costing more. Mr. Stewart, of | planation; yet I may say that after hear- (Laughter). However it was obtained and When asked for an explanation on cross- the slightest evidence of any wrongdoing I dertaken by their forefathers was the prop-

The Premier's Bright Colleague Pokes Fun at the Opposition ---

and Admiration for His Chief.

Mr. Osman said: I observe that the members of this House who follow the leader of the opposition have been exhausted, unfortunately for them (laughter) and perhaps for ourselves (laughter) because a discussion that is too one-sided is certainly not so interesting or satisfacbalanced.

In respect to the speakers, I am quite willing to concede that although very few in number they perhaps have greater ability than we on this side-(laughter)but, at least we would not claim for ourselves any greater than they have-(great laughter)-yet, as I said before, it would be much more interesting if the discussion

could be a little more evenly divided. So far it has been exceedingly serious to us all in many ways; it is serious from the length of time we have been here, but still more it has been a serious time for our chief, who has been on his trial; but speaker informs Mr. Robinson that such we will soon have the pleasure of seeing how satisfactory the event will be to all

on this side of the House. (Applause). The honorable leader of the opposition said to me (and I hope he will not think it is a breach of confidence if I repeat the statement) that he never knew of a parliamentary investigation which resulted in any other verdict than a party verdict. Therefore, he certainly cannot be disapgreat, and he must have been able to no question about the price of bridgessult? (Applause).

a desire to look into the accounts of the administration in the fond hope, not always disappointed, that in so fishing somesuggestion of it being a fishing ground; and even that suggestion was more firmly established in my mind, in fact I regarded it as something in the nature of a salmon pool. (Laughter). First of all I saw the all sorts of flies, but particularly "the silver doctor." (Laughter). That fly is, free to acknowledge it was a fairly successful fly here in this investigation, though it did not take any very large fish. (Applause and laughter).

There was also another fly which was was sometimes successful-to a slight de-

known in Madawaskan, waters as the "black dose," I believe. That was tried unsuccessfully. (Laughter).

And then came the only fly that actually took a big fish-not a salmon-that was a fly well known to lawyers as the "Duces tecum" (laughter) and that caught a blue print, or in other words a blue fish (laughter) which was landed successfully and which played an important part before the committee and before this House. (Laughter). I think it has been endeavored to destroy the figures on that fish a good deal, but in the end the sum total of it is that it has proved conclusively that the average cost of our New Brunswick bridges is certainly not higher than the same class of bridges in Ontario. (Ap-

Honorable members may take the figures and cast them up and distort them in any way but, according to the sheet and ac cording to the remarks of the honorable member for Kings (Mr. Pugsley) there is no question that the average cost of steel highway bridges from 1891 to 1899 in Onmade. It does seem to me that when tario has been higher than in New Bruns-

wick. (Applause). It is a little bit strange, I declare, that after the evidence and after that fish was taken and landed with so much skill, it is a little queer that the honorable the papers, but he never returned, and he man, by his own evidence, admittedly not gentlemen who protested against the landing of that fish should now claim it was the best fish that was landed for them. (Laughter). I think also it is a little strange and a little more than strange that the legal gentlemen who took part in the those over the Charles River, Boston, the discussion in committee should say that there never was in the history of court procedure such an arbitrary act as the demanding of that blue print from the witness, that it was unparalled that he ince of New Brunswick. What for? To | should be called upon to produce it. There control if possible the erection of bridges | were present four gentlemen, bright and in this province, to drive out of existence | shining stars in the legal constellation der, and pointed out that where tenders those little concerns in existence here assisting a witness who came here and who were called for many instances have oc- struggling so that they may have the op- I think really thought he was coming curred were the "lowest tender" pro- portunity to construct our own provin- among a lot of bushmen; he, I thought, vision has been supplied by contractors cial bridges. (Applause.) Why! By his sat there with some assurance (and many providing for those who put in a low ten- own evidence he has gone to the province | people noticed it and commented upon it der. The practice of caling for tenders of Nova Scotia and built bridges at less in the committee room) that it was he was not the general practice of the suc- than cost. (Hear, hear.) What for? For who had come here to straighten out the cessful corporations and private firms of the purpose of driving out the one or two business and do it before he left, and I today, and he instanced the C. P. R. and little concerns which are there engaged think a man who comes here to testify on Grand Trunk and other corporations, who in the construcion of bridge work. (Ap- such a subject and is asked for information depend on their own engineers for plans | plause.) Do you really hink that the evi- | and who has it in his pocket and declines and specificatios and then have them car- dence of such witnesses would have any to give it up because he says it is a private ried out by reliable manufacturers or con- weight at all before any jury, before a matter and that he was commanded by committee of this House or the people of his superiors not to yield it to the comtions adopted this course, why should not this country? Reference has been madd mittee under any consideration; when I a government? Continuing, Mr. Fish said to this blue print in a jocular way and as say he was backed up and supported by he wished to refer for one moment to the to the value of the figures shown by it; but the advice of four legal gentlemen—that evidence that was supposed to come here there is to be said about it, when first it he should produce that fish on the defrom the province of Nova Scotia. Dr. came here it was a blue print; then by mand of one legal gentleman and give vsuade Mesrs. Stewart, McNeil and Mur- print, and when they turned it over again if such was a clear case of breach of the rules of procedure. (Laughter and apso that now we cannot tell at all what plause). That it should have been so demanded and given up, I think, speaks little for their argument in this House. (Hear, hear). I know had I been in his place and my counsel said: "No; do not give it up" I should have buttoned my coat and gone to jail before I would have has done very good service and I am sure pleasure to gentlemen on the other side

> Applause). It is also a little bit queer that the honorable leader of the opposition, feeling as should feel so indignant at the treatment leader of the government: "What are

of the House as it has to those on this

side of the House, we are all very well

pleased about it and a very happy family.

hand. I enjoyed hearing him speak. I ton said in reply: "Don't you think they am ready to pay a high tribute to his could be bought a little cheaper?" to which talent and his oratory and his most agree- the premier replied: "I am free to acable personality; but I think when he knowledge that they could be built a little says he was satisfied, I really do not see cheaper than that." He then spoke of his why we should be dissatisfied. (Applause). experience with Upper Canadian concerns Mr. Roy's evidence is somewhat con- and spoke of some tenders at 62 cents, but, His Confidence in the Government demnatory of the prices paid by the govern- said he, "I might get it a little cheaper, ment for bridges built by the Record but the government sustains me in the Foundry Company and other New Bruns- opinion that the difference is so slight wick concerns and he quoted the prices and the advantage of having the work he would do it at; and he said if he re- done here so great and the work is so ceived a rush order (I think he must have much better that I feel if the province got a rush order here, for no sooner was | paid a little more the province is getting his evidence through than he suddenly got | full value for what it pays." (Applause). up and out-he made a rush out of Fred- That was never questioned by Dr. Stockericton) and if he got that rush order he ton, who never said it was too much and

> in New Brunswick (Laughter.) The charge that evidence was withheld or given reluctantly on the part of the government I am sure is not a fair one to make. Every opportunity was given for others than the lawyers; but I feel full the introduction of evidence. Mr. Johnson's swift departure from here—perhaps I the investigation and I accept the verdict he may be on his return—but if he is he tof that tribunal with satisfaction as well will be here too late unless he hurries up, (laughter)—was not due to the withholding of evidence. (Laughter). However, I am certain that every opportunity was given for the fullest examination of any witness or any person required, and no one can contest that statement. (Hear,

hear). One honorable gentleman said that this house and country was very much indebted to the honorable leader of the opposition. I have no doubt that it is so, and no doubt also but he is responsible for the payment of some very heavy bills for which the country may be considered responsible to him until paid. (Laughter). pointed in the result if he thinks it will I really am very much surprised. I do be, or considers it will be a partisan ver- not know what the country will think of dict. (Hear, hear). If he really and sin- us if we pay all the bills I heard of after cerely felt that there would be a verdict | what transpired last year at the last genthat would sustain the government and eral election. They will say "did we not its leader, then why put this country to speak on this very bridge question? Did the great expense—(applause)—so great we not say plainly—so plainly that when that I only realized a short time ago how you went there next time there should be estimate better than we could how great | and we returned your government by a that expense was that he intended to cast large majority? Then what reason was upon the province. I ask why he did do it | there for incurring so large an amount of if he was assured before hand of the re- expense in connection with this investigation?"I will not say how much it is. It I have heard parliamentary investiga- is certainly very large. What answer can tions referred to as fishing excursions, and | we make? We will have to take the re-

sponsibility of paying it. Another statement was made about the permanent bridge accounts not having thing would be discovered. With that been before the public accounts committee. what I could from the different speakers, feeling in my mind I often entered the That is not a true statement. I have been but I am sorry to say I did not learn anya member of that committee ever since scene of many incidents, sometimes im- I have had the honor of being a member portant, but always such that gave the of this legislature and I have always seen the accounts of the public works department produced. In fact, on one occasion, the committee held its meeting on Saturday night from about 7 o'clock in the evening until-well, I won't say beyond fishing pool. I saw that they were using | 12, but to within five minutes, so as not to commit a breach of the law and the Sabbath day, and during that time every as a rule, successful anywhere and always one of the permanent bridge accounts was well taken. It is a well known fly. I am placed before that committee and investigated that night. (Applause).

So many outrageous statements have been made during the discussion of this matter, many so far from the actual truth, I almost thought we had gone back to applied with some skill. It was also well | that period which is and always will be known as "Jock Scott" (laughter). It known in provincial history as the Pinder regime. (Laughter and applause). There was never a more truthful statement made Occassionally I saw used a favorite fly than that by Mr. Laforest, when he said that the shortest members carried the load. (Laughter). Boy, kindly bring me all the bridge evidence! (One of the pages -the smallest of their number-obtains from the clerk the evidence, consisting of some 900 pages of typewritten matter and carries it to Mr. Osman amid the laughter of the House)

The matter of the evidence-well-(lift

ing it up) (laughter). This has been fully discussed and I may almost truthfully say that there has been only one item left for me to speak upon, but that would be hardly true; but if only one it necessitates two references to the evidence, one of which I think is somewhere near the middle of it and the other somewhere about the end of it and therefore it will be necessary for me to read the whole of it through. (Laughter). Therefore, when I say that there was never a more truthful statement made than that stated by the honorable member for Madawaska (Mr. Laforest)-that the shortest members have to carry the heaviest load-it is true, for this reason: The honorable provincial secrteary, Mr. Legere, Mr. Whitehead and myself are, I think, the shortest members. (Laughter). The honorable provincial have to carry the heaviest load-it is true, the province; Mr. Legere has to carry the load and responsibility of the county of Kent in the investigating committee, and my honorable friend so near my left (Mr. Whitehead) has to carry the weight of resistance to the attempt for reduction of taxation for this city, while I-I have to read all through this evidence tonight for your satisfaction. (Great laughter). Therefore, if upon no other point, I can say upon that point the honorable member for Madawaska at any rate spoke the truth for once. (Applause).

I must congratulate the honorable member who was called the Baby of the House but who has now in a few weeks grown to full manhood and I was very much impressed by his oration today, and I am opposition on having so able an assistant. (Hear, hear).

Who is able to criticize the statement of the honorable leader of the government when he said that the New Brunswick bridges would last 50 years longer that the Nova Scotia bridges? Who is able to question that? I heard of a man once who said that cedar trees would last 100 years and that he knew a man who had lived to test it twice. (Laughter).

The men who contradict two engineers and who challenge the statement of the honorable leader of the government must have been living 75 years before they can speak with authority. I am willing to give the Nova Scotia bridges 25 years and the extra 50 the New Brunswick, and the man must watch them for 75 years before he can say they will not carry out the promise of the honorable leader of the government. (Applause). I have spoken somewhat lightly about

the matter, but in my heart I feel it seriously and feel my obligation in this House tonight as seriously as any man on the floors, and I say there has been no deception on the part of the local government. (Applause). I think during my first session here, when perhaps I took rather more minute account of everything said than now, and perhaps I regarded with a little more trusting confidence the words which dropped from legislators' lips; but when I say much more interest than he did about the verdict and also feeling now, I mean that I remember that his case was so well proved, yet heard Dr. Stockton say to the present

THE HUMORIST OF THE HOUSE. The two statements hardly go hand in Mr. Emmerson said 62 cents. Dr. Stockmade a good profit out of it. (Laughter). for two years no question was raised He would fill it at one price. However, about it and never until just before the tory as a discussion which is more evenly his chief hope is that before he dies he last election. (Applause). I refer to this will have an opportunity to build bridges as I heard it myself. (Hear, hear).

I feel that the investigation has been most ample and the question fully tried out and probably there has been a little more bickering and quarrelling among justice has been done to all parties during as with a feeling that it was just and fair. (Applause).

I feel also that the country will be satisfied. My confidence in the administration is as strong and sound as ever it was. My feelings of admiration for my chief and colleague are enhanced by the manner in which he stood this charge and came through it. I congratulate him with all my heart. (Applause).

MR. PORTER'S SPEECH.

The Word Painter of Victoria County Paints Many Pictures and Then Shows How the Time of the House Has Been Wasted by the Investigation.

Mr. Porter said: I felt that it was hardly

ecessary I should speak upon this subject

because I thought it was only a political question and I had not taken much interest in it while the investigation was proceeding. I thought it was a question that could safely be left to the lawyers of the Housethat it was largely a matter of evidence and then the issue we all know; but since the report has reached this House I have been taking a little interest in gathering all the evidence that there has been nothing bridges and from all the information I never get any information in the public works department. If that be so then how prices of the bridges were? It seems to me that they are knocking the foundation such statements about being unable to get information and about there being no acof those particular structures. Then again, while this matter has been going on ! of evidence for legal gentlemen and though they may seem to be beyond the grasp of the lay mind, yet we find that it is a principle in courts that although the main point (laughter) and from what we have heard today remain where it was at first, as merely political question. (Applause.)

When we hear the contentions about the different points and the contentions and evidence of the experts we feel like an Irishman did when he addressed himself to an American whom he saw at work "My, what 'I am making the pattern of a stove.' 'What," says the Irishman, "do you have American, "I have to be particular about of the moxa causing moxibustion the process through these internal parts of the fumigator produces the hyperconcentration of caloric while the fumigation is attempting to escape. Do you understand that?" "Yes,' says the Irishman, "I understand you perfectly well, but I don't understand what the devil you mean." (Laughter.) And, it seems to me after a great deal of this expert testimony, that they have as much comprehension of the matter as the Irishman had about the stove. (Laughter.) I think to get the weight was but, if you are going into the honesty of the matter about the construction of a bridge, you would have to get the men who constructed it, and the labor employed, and what price paid, but we have heard tion of that kind at all. No one is accused of misappropriating a dollar in the whole seems to me from all I have heard that this

larger factory in the province of Ontario. making a specialty of bridge work, nearer sure that his friends on the other side of the raw material, can possibly manufacture the House was more than pleased, and I at a slightly cheaper rate than one down congratulate the honorable leader of the here where freights are higher and where nothing in the expert testimony to lead me to believe anything has been wasted and nothing to convince me that the bridge structures are not worth what was paid for them. (Hear, hear.) I have on the floors of this House heard the former chief commissioner state that he felt in trying the experiment of building our own bridges in the province it was possible that the bridges might cost a little more than if brought in from outside, but if the work could be done in this province it should be done (applause) and I have known him to be backed up in the House when he has stated those principles. (Hear, hear and applause.) Now, after hearing all that has been said on the question, I am gratified to know that we can keep and that we are keeping that business in the province. (Applause.) I may say with regard to the opposition just now that the leader of the opposition seems to be satisfied and every member on the other side of the House who spoke seemed to be satisfied and if such is the case we, on this side of the House are satisfied. (Laughter.) But I am not, I may say here, just as well satisfied as I might be from the fact that we have not any steel bridges in Victoria county. (Great laughter.) And if the chief commissioner is making so much out of those steel bridges or his friends as intimated by some gentlemen in this House why it up there. (Laughter.)

My colleague and myself have for three years been using every possible resort to well, what is necessary is done, but nothof the witnesses during the investigation. You paying for these bridges anyway?" and Ing more. (Laughter.) It is from his effort

duct his department with such strict economy that he cannot do more. Of course it is true he has to be also controlled by the amount of money at his disposal and perhaps we get as many bridges as other counties in comparison with the population. (Hear, hear.) At any rate, if we do get one up there then I may be able to tell as to the price and quality of steel girders, and whether rolled bars are cheaper than other bars rivetted together or not. However, I feel fully satisfied that our steel bridges in this

to economize. (Hear, hear.) He tries to con-

province are good bridges and that the prices paid are not excessive even if a little higher than some large factory outside charges. (Applause.) And I hope the time will soon come when we will have more of those steel bridges (hear, hear) all over the province. (Applause.)

We admit this is a wonderful world of ours, a wonderful age we live in. Geologists tell us of the long and protracted periods through which it has rolled during formation. History delineates the story of man, the rise and fall of empire, of kingdom and state; but there is nothing in the research of science, nothing in the tales of history, to compare with the living present, the present day. In those brief words what a world of thought is comprehended. What infinite movements, what joys and sorrows, what faith and doubt, what hope and despair? What fierce conflicts and subtler schemes of policy; and at the same time what glorious achievements are being carried out? (Prolonged applause.) 'Tis a privilege to live in an age so stirring, so pregnant, so eventful. 'Tis an age never to be forgotten. Its impression on history is indelible. Yes, this is an age so peculiar, so selfish, so devoted to the dollar that by some it has been termed an age of gold.

Judging from the last three or four weeks. from the manifestations which we have seen the last few days, or in other words, from the signs of the times, or from the handwritings on the wall, we have come to the conclusion, at least in New Brunswick, this age shall be known as the steel bridge age. (Laughter and applause.)

Verily it's been said again, this world is show and we are either actors or spectators. Be that as it may we verily believe that in New Brunswick at least steel bridges have become of late a periodical and provincial exhibit. (Applause and laughter.) I thought I had an eye for beauty, a taste for the sublime and could comprehend the splendor of a steel bridge, a structure of beauty and utility, spelling out the skill and ingenuity of man. But, since I have listened to the eloquence of the speakers. I just commence to realize the magnitude of this bridge exhibition. (Laughter.) This panorama, this ever changing scene. The sights of yesterday are old, the scenes of today are passing, the scenes of tomorrew will be new. (Prolonged cheering.) Each day brings more varied hues-more fanciful observations. (Applause.)

But to enjoy the panorama we will be iled to enter into the spirit of it author, to imbibe the sentiments of the chief actor, without whom the whole exhibition is a failure. (Applause.)

Yes, he acts well his part: his form is

noble, his language eloquent, his skill mas-

terly. (Applause.) In fact he is master of the situation. If we will for a moment endorse his principles, drink deep of his eloquence, grasp his hand and organize a government, a strong government, a vigorous policy, a government whose foundation or substructure shall be granite, whose superstructure shall be permanent, whose pillars and posts, whose beams and girders, whose trusses and angles shall be steel enduring in its character that it shall endure even unto the end of the scene (laugha government which shall encast iron laws, which shall engraved on blocks of granito and as irrevocable as the decrees of the Meads and Persians (laughter)-a government which shall take all boodling contractors by the throat with a hand of iron and grapple them with hooks of steel and squeeze them down to honest dealing and bottom prices. (Laughter.) Yes, we must look forward to this metallic period when all those great rivers of our province, those mighty streams which seaward glide shall all be spanned in every few miles of their course with those mighty steel structures; also all our brooks and streams winding their way along their meandering courses, whose bubbling waters shall ripple over the pebbles neath those steel structures-all of which shall be erected for the nominal sum of 61/2 cents per pound. (Applause and laughter.) What a happy condition! What a prosperous people! But when the dream is over, the exhibition ended, and this memorable session is drawing to a close, and when we reflect and look back over our work for the last four weeks we can't but regret the time, the trouble and expense. We can't but regret that our great energy, our unlimited powers and our indominatable courage have not been employed along the well defined lines of progression. (Applause.) We have not kept our gaze fixed on general prosperity and individual advancement seeking to penetrate the mists of futurity and learn whether the finger of fate points to onward and upward glory. (Applause.) We regret that instead of acting on progressing lines and looking forward to some good we have turned our gaze backward. We find we have been wasting our talent, our power and our energy in digging and deving in the sediment, the dust, in the archives of the past endeavoring to unearth wothless fossils, to discover some past erres, to recussitate the sins of the past. Applause.) To say the least this is not a wise course. The intelligence of this day does not endorse a negative movement. A Disræi is not turned down on account of his sins but rather to enjoy the more potent virues of a progressive Gladstone.. A McKinley rill not be turned down until a majority f that great republic endorses the more avanced policy of a Bryan. (Applause.) Ourneonle today will not endorse the principles I any political party until that party shw at least they are up to the times andhave something that is good to offer in admce. Our people are intelligent, accustom to self-labor and self-suport-self-respecting. baving faith in the possibilities of heir going to place their confidence in any alitical leader who cannot see anything beer in the future, no better way of using is talents than by the unearthing past as of past days. (Hear, hear.) We feel that's want advancement in this country. We wat our time, our money and our energy . something better than that. We have country with a future. (Applause.) have broad fields to till, more woods

hew, more bridges to build-we have the and many more things to do. We war bills for improvements before the House but we find nothing of importance emanating from the political party opposed to us today They leave their seats and devote their whole time endeavoring to recussitate those old sins, or some old fossils that would be no use to this country or people. (Hear, hear.) Unless their policy be that they will go along the lines of progression, along the lines that will meet with the support of the inteligent people of this country it will be useless for them to meet this party in the neld when another election comes. (Continued applause.)

IN A NUTSHELL.

The Member for Kent County who was on the Committee Sums the whole Situation up in a few Words.

Mr. Leger said that as a member of the committee appointed to investigate the bridge charges he deemed it his duty to add