

more. Now any man who should expect to go and find railway banks and culverts, etc., in the same state after a twelve-month as they were in the day the work was going on would be simply a fool. Therefore what they required to bring them up to proper condition should have been foreseen and provided for in the contract. For any omission to do so there can be no excuse whatever. Before the contracts were made the Government sent engineers over the works, and unless the late government intend to plead that their engineers were incapable fools, there can be no possible excuse for such omission or for any consequent claim for extras. I am stating an outside sum when I say that fifty thousand dollars should have covered every extra for altered works, etc., which could not have been foreseen at the time of making the contracts.

But there are some other points that make the addition of these immense sums to the contract amounts outrageous beyond anything that officials have hitherto attempted. Since the contracts were made the prices of every thing, including labor, have decreased. At the time of making them men could not be safely calculated on for less than a dollar and a quarter the day. If report speaks the truth men have been paid by the contractors as little as sixty cents. Now, every man who has been paid less than a dollar and a quarter a day has been doubly wronged by the late Government, for the contract amounts were sufficient to allow workmen that sum for their labor, and yet that Government added a million dollars to the contract amounts, their share of which these poor workmen will have to pay in taxation, making a further deduction from the pay they have had.

Why was such a sweeping change of officials on these lines made by the Government? Was it that a very corrupt set existed? Practically I see the reason for it thus:—If the same men had been retained in the same positions, the same work could not have been entered in the accounts and paid for twice over without the facts leaking out. Cutting the connection between former and present made matters smooth. It could not have been because they wished to get rid of corrupt officials, for I know that some of the former officials that were corrupt—men who had allowed thousands of dollars of the public money to pass through their hands while they kept their eyes shut—were retained, while others were turned adrift.

I see this Government, that watched their contractors' struggles with such tenderness, and who gave relief with such big amounts of public money, and who were altogether so kind, dealing with another man in a different fashion. I see these kind men harshly and inhumanly driving Legge back to a lunatic asylum. Why such a startling difference between their treatment of one man and their treatment of another? Here is the reason: Legge was worthless, powerless, politically. These contractors could let the public into a conservative secret or two which the men of the late Government