

and ability, but he had met with great reverses. He (Mr. Tupper) had, only yesterday, received a letter from one of this gentleman's friends in Halifax, saying that a friend of Mr. Hill had put himself in communication with the hon. the Minister of Militia, who had promised to give his personal attention to this matter. As he did not know that Mr. Hill's position would be benefitted by the bringing down of any correspondence, and as his only object was to endeavour to stimulate the Government, if possible, to give prompt and careful consideration to the case, and to do Mr. Hill the justice which he would be found, on such examination, to be entitled to, he would be very glad to drop the motion, if the Minister of Public Works would undertake to have his attention carefully turned to the subject, and as promptly as this could be done.

MR. MACKENZIE said he could assure the hon. gentleman that he had given his attention to this matter long ago. There were two or three mistakes in the hon. gentleman's statement—mistakes which, of course, were not those of the hon. gentleman. One related to the statement that Mr. Hill was a salaried officer. His deputy and the chief architect utterly denied this; and their denial was consistent with the general course of the Department.

MR. TUPPER said he did not want the hon. gentleman to understand him to say that Mr. Hill was a salaried officer, but that he computed his salary at the rate paid him, down to a certain date, by the Department; and he estimated it to average something like \$100 a month. He did not undertake to say that Mr. Hill had a fixed salary.

MR. MACKENZIE said that the course which the Department had pursued, both under the late and present Government, was, that when they had to erect a building, a rough sketch was first made at Ottawa, and then sent to some local architect, with instructions to prepare finished plans. This architect received his commission upon the amount of the contract, and where expensive repairs had to be made, he received also a commission, in case of new buildings varying from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4

per cent., and in case of ordinary repairs, costing perhaps \$2,000 or \$3,000, a somewhat large commission was given; this was generally left to the Chief Architect to determine, subject, of course, to the decision of the Minister of his Department. The Chief Architect of the Department had assured him that this course was pursued regularly with Mr. Hill, and that the only difficulty arose from the fact that Mr. Hill was claiming a fixed salary as well as the commission upon the work which he superintended. Mr. Hill had been dealt with exactly like the other gentlemen who had been so employed during the last 2½ years as architects—as Mr. Hilliard and as other architects had been employed. He (Mr. Mackenzie) had understood the last time that this matter was before him, which he thought was two months ago, that there might possibly be a balance due Mr. Hill on the Chief Architect's and his own mode of computation, and he had directed that whatever that balance was, it should be reached, in the first place, in the ordinary method by which local architects were dealt with in other places, and that no time should be lost in remitting the sum; but if there was any such balance at all, it was comparatively trifling and nothing at all approaching the sum mentioned by the hon. gentleman. However, he would give the hon. gentleman a memorandum to-morrow or the next day, and would show him exactly how the matter stood and how it was arranged.

MR. TUPPER said that if the hon. gentleman would spare enough time to run his eye over the correspondence between the Department and Mr. Hill, he would find reason probably to change his impression a good deal. He did not at all controvert the statement that the Chief Architect had formed his opinion from his mode of computation, but Mr. Hill himself claimed that he had a letter from the Department acknowledging the amount of \$1,260 due him as salary; and he thought that if the hon. Premier would be good enough to run his eye over this correspondence, previous to a final settlement, it would lead to a satisfactory adjustment. At all

MR. TUPPER.