

surprise, and of not being expected to know anything about it. Had Mr. Ross been elected, there would have been no trouble about that being a resignation of his contract. There was the letter of the hon. the Premier, informing Mr. Ross that the Department had no objection to it; and yet the hon. gentleman endeavoured to interrupt, for the purpose of representing that no communication had taken place. Mr. Ross ran his election, and was defeated, and mark what followed. Like the dog in the fable, having lost the substance in the attempt to grasp the shadow, he determined to make one last attempt to retain the contract. The hon. member for South Bruce, no doubt, did not forget that, when he met with this case, he was ashamed to undertake to deal with it, and said he would leave it to the hon. the Minister of Militia to defend his own conduct in having this interview with the contractor, and transferring him into a Government candidate. He (Mr. Tupper) did not forget that, when the hon. the Minister of Militia rose, he said he would take some other time to make an explanation, which time had not yet arrived. But, no doubt, all that was satisfactory to the hon. member for South Bruce, who seemed to have such a lively recollection of that which the hon. the First Minister had forgotten. He thought he had shown to the satisfaction of the hon. member for South Bruce that the contractor who failed to perform his contract, and to whom was improperly handed over a large sum of public money was, during an election in Victoria transferred into a Government candidate, though he had previously been an opponent of theirs. He would ask hon. gentlemen opposite, he would ask the hon. member for South Bruce, whose high character for purity in relation to contracts, if this proceeding was a fair or a just one? If the transformation which was effected in this way surprised the hon. the First Minister, it certainly did not surprise the people of this country who watched the discussion in this House. Anyone who calmly and dispassionately watched the course of public events, must be convinced that this was one of the gravest cases of misconduct and

maladministration on the part of the Government, and he could hardly suppose that the Session would be allowed to pass without the matter being brought under the notice of the House.

MR. MACKENZIE said he wished here to put in certain documents. It was asserted, among other things, that no engineer's certificate had been obtained for some of the items charged, and he would now hand over certificates for every farthing of the expenditure.

MR. MACKAY (Cape Breton) said he must confess he did not know a great deal about this matter, but he had paid some little attention to the discussion of last Session. He believed the speech delivered by the hon. member for Cumberland to-day, had been given on a previous occasion. The principal charge made by the hon. gentleman was that Mr. Ross, the candidate at the last general election, who opposed the member for Victoria, was induced to become a supporter of the Government after certain arrangements had been made with him by the Minister of Militia. Now, he (Mr. MacKay) knew that was not correct. He knew that on the nomination day, and, indeed during his canvass, Mr. Ross did not come out as a supporter of the present Ministry; on the contrary, he was to a certain extent opposed to the Government then in power. The Opposition papers of Nova Scotia claimed him in the first instance as being in opposition to the present Government, and it was only after he was defeated by the member for Victoria, that he was alleged to be a Government candidate. The hon. member for Cumberland would fain induce the House to believe that monies had been paid to the contractor improperly, the work which he undertook to perform not having been completed. Now he believed that the work was completed in accordance with the terms of the contract, but that in consequence of a storm, or some other casualty, a large portion of the work had to be commenced over again. This, he believed was also repaired, but the Government finding that owing to the exposed nature of the coast the work could not be made durable as it