

altogether. If there is much masonry going on in one section, more would be required. It would be impossible for one inspector to go over twenty miles.

*Hon. Mr. Holton.*—Some reference was made just now to the fact, that Mr. Fleming did not report in writing. Now, I have no hesitation in saying, that that harmony which it is essential to have between the Chief Engineer and his staff, is much better maintained by not making formal complaints. We know what that eventuates in. It is a chronic difference between the parties, each going to their common superior, the Government. So far, then, from thinking Mr. Fleming was in fault for not making these complaints in writing, I think he adopted the very best course.

*Hon. Dr. Tupper.*—The Chief Engineer is a person appointed by Government and is, therefore, directly responsible to them. I have no hesitation in saying, that if there is any person maintained on the line contrary to his remonstrances, I say, it is his duty to go to the Government and report that he has recommended the removal of such person from the work ; and have him discharged. If it is a matter of sufficient importance—if it is going to endanger the character of the work, I think, if the Commissioners do not respect his remonstrances, it is his duty to communicate with the Government in each such case.

*Mr. D. A. Macdonald.*—In the case of the Grand Trunk Railway, Mr. Ross, the Chief Engineer, had the whole control of the engineers, from one end of the line to the other.

*Hon. Sir A. T. Galt.*—I will just remind my honorable friend, that so far from that, the contractors provided the engineers themselves. All the practical part of the engineering was done by the contractors themselves.

*Mr. Mackenzie.*—But Mr. Macdonald is right in this way. There were two classes of engineers. One did the work of details, but the general devising and planning, was that of the Chief Engineer, Mr. Ross, and of his staff, that superintended the work of the contractors.

*Hon. Mr. Holton.*—Dr. Tupper, a little while ago, referred to considerations which might render it expedient to vest the authority over these subordinates in some other person than the Chief Engineer. I understand his considerations to be political.

*Hon. Dr. Tupper.*—No, it was in order that there should be a check in such a gigantic work. It gives an additional check if you put the whole control under one man ; if the man were a perfectly good man, that is, if it was impossible that he could do wrong, it would be all very well in that case. But in the expenditure of a large sum of money, it is an additional safeguard not to have every engineer under the direct appointment and control of the Chief Engineer.

*Hon. Mr. Holton.*—There is this to be said, I think, on that point : If you are to have an efficient check on the engineers on the part of the Commissioners, you must have over them a first class engineer, because, it is impossible for a moment to check them otherwise.

*Mr. Mackenzie.*—If the Chief Engineer is bound to appeal from the Commission to the Government, in case the Commissioners decline to accept his recommendation, that at once implies a conflict. If the Commissioners decline to dismiss engineers, of whom the Chief Engineer complains, we must suppose that the Government would also decline. In a difficulty like that, the Chief Engineer must resign his position.

*Hon. Dr. Tupper.*—The Chief Engineer would relieve himself of responsibility.

*Mr. Mackenzie.*—But suppose that these engineers should be retained in spite of him, it would become known, and he would soon lose control on the line.

473. *Mr. D. A. Macdonald.*—To what part of the contract Mr. Fleming do your replies refer ?—My replies had reference to the whole of the contracts on the line, from the beginning ; and I had reference mainly to the assistant engineers, and the inspectors of masonry. Latterly, I must say, that the Commissioners have consulted me much more than they did at first, and recently there have been very few appointments made, without first consulting me. In the first place, though, a great many appointments were made without my knowledge, which I think was very wrong for them to do.

In reply to a remark from Mr. Young,