

that gentleman's personal integrity, as well as for professional ability. His instructions were not to report on the whole road so much as upon the features to which he (Mr. Mackenzie) had referred. Mr. Shanly had Mr. Swinyard's report before him; also, the engineers' reports and the allegations of the contractors and the Local Government, and he had to consider them and determine a sum that should be payable by the Local Government as against the sum which could be claimed under Mr. Swinyard's report. That was the character of Mr. Shanly's report. He did not remember minutely all the subjects dealt with in it, but, at all events, the matter was discussed in the House. If the report had not been brought down, there was not the slightest objection to its being submitted, because it was accepted as the basis of the settlement between the Island and Dominion Governments, as to the amount of the capital account which was to be charged against the Island.

MR. BOWELL said it was desirable that the country should know that Mr. McKechnie, the Superintendent of the Prince Edward Island railway, was using the position he occupied to favor a certain class of newspaper men in that Province. The letter written by that journalist, a copy of which had been read by the hon. member for Queen's, P. E. I., showed, at least, that in the management of that railway the Superintendent had selected certain editors and proprietors of newspapers to whom he extended the favours of free passes over the road. It was very questionable, even though the principle of the Government might be that, to the victors belonged the spoils, whether Government property was to be used exactly for the benefit of those who were willing to praise the Government and to be civil and courteous, as Mr. McKechnie said, to the railway officials. That gentleman said in his letter "passes are sometimes given to friendly editors with the expectation that they will, in return, show ordinary courtesy to the officers of the railway," which simply meant that if an editor had ventured to criticise the action or management of Mr. Mc-

MR. MACKENZIE.

Kechnie the favour of a pass would not be extended to him. He (Mr. Bowell) was satisfied the country would not justify such conduct, and he was gratified to have heard the statement of the hon. the Premier that if the accusation contained in the letter, which had been read in the House and would become public, were correct, it was a serious charge against the management of the road. It had been the habit to grant passes to newspapermen over different railways, but he had yet to learn that, even in the case of private companies, they had been confined exclusively to those who were ready, at all times, to puff the management and state what they did not believe to be correct in connection both with the road and its management. That practice should certainly be terminated. It could scarcely be concluded that the Editor of the *Summerside Progress* should not have received that ordinary courtesy which was extended to the editors, proprietors and representatives of the newspapers of the Dominion at the time of the Press Excursion. Such action was carrying a feeling of spite too far. It was the duty of the hon. the First Minister to inquire into the charge, and see that the practice should not be perpetuated on the Island Railway, or on any other Government road.

MR. MACKENZIE said he had already informed the House that such had been done entirely without his knowledge, and quite contrary to his orders.

MR. BOWELL said he had not charged that it had been done with the knowledge or consent of the hon. the Premier; but, his attention having been called to it, he should terminate such practices.

MR. MACKENZIE: No doubt. I do not find in the journals for the past two years, Mr. Shanly's report, and I presume it has not been moved for. I will lay it on the table, of course, at once.

Motion agreed to.