

HON. MR. McCALLUM—I gave my reasons.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—When the first report came out it was published in all the newspapers, except the *Empire*.

HON. MR. McCALLUM—That was after it was laid on the Table here.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—In this case the *Empire* was the only paper that published it. Now the *Empire* did not receive that report from the Government or any of their officials, so far as the Government know. The *Empire* acquired it in some way, but in what way I do not know. We have no idea in what way it came into their possession at all. Some enquiry has been made, but it has not been ascertained how it came into possession of this paper, and therefore no slight was intended to the House and no slight has occurred. The simple answer to my hon. friend's question is this: that this official has made what he calls a supplementary or second report, which report was made after his functions had ceased—after he had performed all that his commission required him to do, by sending in his report, and the evidence taken. The Government are yet considering what to do with this report. If they determine to treat it as an official report it will be laid before the House. In a few days the decision will be arrived at on the subject. When these reports are before the House, or when it is determined to disregard the second report, or whatever may be the official decision, and the papers are before the House for discussion of the subject, of course it will be my duty, if the matter is brought up, to discuss it with my hon. friend, and if this gentleman whom he accuses of impropriety of a very gross character has really been guilty and deserves punishment, he will most certainly receive it without fear or favor.

HON. MR. McCALLUM—My hon. friend says that I was premature in this matter. He did not know the provocation—

HON. MR. ABBOTT—What I meant to say was, that a discussion on the merits of this question was perhaps a little premature—I qualified what I was saying as much as I could—because the House was not in possession of these reports or papers.

HON. MR. McCALLUM—The report has been laid before the House, and members have had the same chance of getting it that I had. Does my hon. friend say that there is a second report?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I say that there is a paper which was sent in by this official after he was *functus officio*, and the Government are considering whether they will treat it as an official report and deal with it, or whether they will pay no attention to it whatever.

HON. MR. McCALLUM—The leader of the Government can understand that when he says I am premature in this matter he forgets that I have waited a long time. I brought this matter before the Government two years ago, and last year I made my statement in this House. The investigation closed on the 13th of November last, and the report is before them now. I am satisfied that there is another report from the commissioner, whether the Government asked him to make it or not. It is strange that he should make a report if they did not ask him to do so, and if he made a report for which the public money has been paid, it is a public document, and should be laid before this House. I, therefore, urge strongly upon the leader of the Government to bring down this second report and the evidence taken during the investigation, and let it be given to the public. I do not for a moment say that the Government has anything to hide in this matter. The hon. leader of the House speaks as though only one individual is involved in this matter. If he will look at the evidence he will see that there are half a dozen officials in the ring. I want to see the public works of this country carried on efficiently and honestly. I must discuss this second report further, because it is contrary to the evidence where it says that Mr. Ellis did not hide anything from the Government. If the House will look at the explanatory letter from Mr. Ellis to the Government, on the 13th of May last, they can see that while he was building a bridge over Shiner's Creek, at a cost to the country of over \$1,000, he hid it from the Government. He built this bridge for the township to please a member of Parliament, and hid the fact from the Government. Yet the commissioner has the audacity to say in his report that Mr.