

sustained by the reports of the engineers, and that, if the engineer had approved of any transaction, it was *prima facie* evidence that it was a proper one. With regard to the other point the hon gentleman had referred to, namely, that all the documents ought to be before the House, he had already stated that everything that referred to the giving out of contracts—of a technical and public character—everything except the moral or personal reasons why any persons had been passed over—should be laid before the House. He thought it was fair that the Minister of Public Works should, on his own responsibility, leave out such portions as were strictly confidential, given to him as a Minister, and bring down the remainder. He recollected well, on certain disputed occasions, such as that of the award of the contract for Section 15 of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Georgian Bay contract, reports of the engineers were brought down, with the documents embodied in them, and published at once, the moment they were called for. There was no change of practice made while he (Mr. Mackenzie) was head of the Public Works Department. He had felt it essentially a part of his duty, as the political head of a Department, to see that the officers charged with the engineering and business responsibility of such contracts were in accord with the political head, and he in accord with them. He had no recollection of a single contract having been given out during his term, in which everything concerned in those contracts was not concurred in by the deputy head and engineers of the Department.

• MR. TUPPER said that the moment he should have adopted the course suggested by the leader of the Opposition, he would have exposed himself to the charge of garbling the reports of the engineers, and he did not intend to expose himself to any such suspicion. The hon. member for Halton said that suspicion existed with regard to his (Mr. Tupper's) course in this matter. He had never heard any hon. gentleman say so, and would be glad to have the grounds of any such suspicion stated to the House. He would not have it said that he had refused to show engineers'

reports to hon. gentlemen opposite who were desirous of seeing them. He had stated already his reasons for treating such reports as private and confidential, and the hon. member for Halton, who had been a Minister himself, ought to have known that they were sufficient. He (Mr. Tupper) had stated that it was desirable that the Government of the day should have the full benefit of the knowledge and opinions of the engineers in relation to all parties tendering; that, if the question was simply one of amount, the Government, with all the figures before them, would not want the engineers' reports; but, if they had from them reports dealing with the professional character and capacity—not the moral character—of the tenderers, it would not be judicious to make them public. Such reports were private and personal, and the engineers would, if they knew they were to be published, be more cautious in their statements. But, after what had fallen from the hon. member for Halton on this case, he (Mr. Tupper) would lay all the papers on the table, and allow the hon. gentleman to see whether he, or any other hon. member, could find any grounds for the imputation, or suspicion, in relation to this matter, which he had, for the first time, mentioned. He would at once lay on the table all the reports in relation to the contracts recently submitted.

VICE-CHANCELLOR BLAKE.

REMARKS.

Mr. COSTIGAN said, before the Orders of the Day were called, he would like to ask the Minister of Justice if his attention had been called to a certain serious complaint that had been made through the public journals against a very high official of the country. He alluded to certain expressions used by Vice-Chancellor Blake on certain occasions, which seemed to have given dissatisfaction in the country. His attention might already have been called to the fact that this hon. gentleman was charged with using language unwise and objectionable, holding the position he did. He (Mr. Costigan) did not pretend the hon. gentleman did use this language; but he was desirous of impressing the