

in it. Its removal, therefore, became necessary, and tenders were asked for the erection of a new fence. The lowest prices were: common, 79c.; post and board, \$1.25; and snake, \$3.79 per rood. After comparing them with the prices paid in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, they considered it would be cheaper to purchase the material and build the fence themselves. The result was that 86½ double miles of post and board fence were erected at a cost of \$48,184.14, or 86c. per rood, instead of \$1.25; of snake fence 19¼ miles at an average cost of \$3.06, instead of \$3.79 per rood. He would feel much obliged to any hon. member who would afford him such information as would enable him to effect any reforms whatever in the running of the road. He could assure the House that he was only desirous of having the work most efficiently performed and to remove every abuse as far as it was possible to do so. He had no interest whatever in maintaining anything that was wrong, but whenever any abuse existed, or anything was done in a manner that could be improved, he would be glad that they should be pointed out. But the hon. member for Queen's had not stated fairly the matter in connection with the fencing, and he well knew that it was utterly impossible to construct all the fencing in one season; and the hon. member knew also, from the statement he (Mr. Mackenzie) made, that after obtaining tenders, the Government found that they could save some thousands of dollars by adopting another mode than that of accepting tenders for the whole work. That had been the net result of the operation, and the hon. member for Queen's could not have known the facts or examined the reports, or he would not have made the remarks he had offered on the subject.

Mr. POPE (Queens, P.E.I.) said that in twenty miles of the road only half a mile was fenced, and four years had elapsed.

Mr. TUPPER said that as the railway settlement ultimately made was based on Mr. Shanly's report, it should be laid before the House.

Mr. MACKENZIE said there was no possible objection to such being

done; and he was under the impression that the report had been submitted. In regard to Mr. Shanly's visit to Prince Edward Island, the hon. member for Cumberland would remember that the Government first sent Mr. Swinyard to perfect arrangements for the opening of the Island Railway. That gentleman made an elaborate report on the condition of the road, and the Dominion Government proposed to effect a settlement with the Island Government on that report. The present Senator Haviland was the Provincial Secretary, and he complained that Mr. Swinyard's report was too severe, and that he had made his calculation upon a basis which was not absolutely correct. Mr. Swinyard was not accused of writing anything wrong, but Mr. Haviland stated that the Provincial Government had made changes in the original contract, and he took the ground, whether those changes were beneficial or otherwise, they were made by competent authority, and that all the Dominion Government had the right to claim, was the difference between the amount which would have been necessary to perfect the road, deducting whatever was saved by the changes made by order of the Provincial Government from the total sum as first assessed. The Dominion Government was not able to resist that argument, because, if the Local Government had the power to make changes, so as to have curves more frequent and sharper than originally contemplated, and steeper grades; if, in short, they allowed any changes to be made in the contract, those changes the Dominion Government was competent to recognize; and he arranged with Mr. Haviland that the Dominion Government would send some perfectly impartial, independent person, who would receive the statements, both of the Local Government and of the Engineers the Canadian Government had placed there. He (Mr. Mackenzie) selected Mr. Frank Shanly, with Mr. Haviland's consent, for that duty, partly because he was an authority on that kind of railway, because he had built considerable lengths of it himself, and partly because he had perfect confidence in