

of a desire to make of this contract a political job. The Premier very frankly stated that the reason why he cast aside this man's tender was the extraordinary circumstance of Merrill having given Palen this information—in fact, the order to go on with the work—joined with the fact of the letter, the whole circumstances leading him (Mr. Mackenzie) to believe there was, if not collusion, so much suspicion of it as to justify the stoppage of the work by Palen. If there was collusion, what could have been more suspicious than these circumstances, including Palen's care to inform people about the posting of his letter, the time, and so on. All this suspicion was increased by the fact that Merrill seemed very anxious to put Palen in the position he occupied without any authority. For all that, the evidence showed Palen's letter might not have been posted till four or five o'clock, p.m. Nobody saw Palen post the letter. Therefore it was quite possible for Merrill to have shown the tenders to Palen before his letter was posted, for we did not know when it was posted. Mr. Mackenzie's evidence was perfectly straightforward and consistent with all the facts proved here. He stated, when he found Merrill had exceeded his duty, and that there was no proof of the hour of the posting of the letter, and that collusion might have taken place, he threw Palen's tender aside. The only thing that justified this report was Palen's having spent money, and he admitted it was quite right he should be paid for whatever work he had done, by some party; and if the amount had not been fixed at \$1,000, for which he (Mr. Penny) could see no justification, he thought this portion of the report, at least, could not have been objected to. (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. CAMPBELL thought the amendment of the last paragraph of the report would meet the object of the member from Alma, and remove the objections of the Minister of Agriculture. It was, no doubt, somewhat difficult for the House to assert absolutely that a specific sum should be paid to Palen. He questioned very much whether the concluding recommendation was such as should emanate from this House. (Hear, hear.) He

would move in amendment to strike out the concluding paragraphs of the report, and substitute a recommendation of an address to His Excellency praying a favourable consideration of the case of Wm. Palen. This would leave the matter in the hands of the Government, with an expression of the mind of the House in a manner favourable to Palen's case. Government could then deal with it according to their sense of duty to the public.

HON. MR. PENNY suggested an amendment of the language of the report in instances incorrectly alleged that certain things were clearly proved.

After some remarks by HON. MR. CAMPBELL,

HON. MR. LETELLIER said the affidavits, which exposed their authors to a penalty for misdemeanor, should be struck out of the report in Committee. He thought the House was not prepared to accept what was illegally taken.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD said they formed part of the papers brought down to the House.

After some further remarks by Hon. Messrs. Campbell and Benson, who disclaimed any political motive for his action in the Committee, and also by the Hon. Messrs. Dickey, Scott, Aikins, Penny, Flint and Read, in reply,

HON. MR. CAMPBELL'S amendment modified, to strike out the objectionable affidavits, as Hon. Messrs. Letellier and Scott urged, was put, and, amidst shouts of "Carried," HON. MR. LETELLIER said the Government would not consider themselves bound by it.

Several Members—This is simply a recommendation; upon Ministers lies the responsibility.

The amendment was declared carried.

STAVE BOLTS AND OAK LOGS DUTY.

HON. MR. SCOTT moved the third reading of the bill to remove the export duty from stave bolts and oak logs.

MESSRS. FLINT, WILMOT and READ opposed it, arguing it was better to discourage the exportation of our woods, and encourage manufactures therefrom in Canada. Too much of our best timber had already been exported,