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Mr. *Holton*—What I asked was for the correspondence with reference to his difference with the contractors.

Mr. *Fleming*—There is no public correspondence on that point. All the public correspondence is with reference to his appointment to British Columbia.

Mr. *Mackenzie*—It seems rather remarkable that you should give him entire control of the whole engineering staff of the Pacific slope, he being removed for alleged infirmities of temper from an inferior position on the Intercolonial road. Did it not occur to you as a somewhat dangerous course to take, if this man is what he has been represented to be?

Mr. *Fleming*—No; I did not attach so much importance to his infirmities of temper.

Mr. *Holton*—Perhaps Mr. Fleming would inform the Committee, there being no public correspondence, what view Mr. Smith took—whether he had any conversations with him on the subject of the complaints made against him on the Intercolonial road.

Mr. *Fleming*—Many conversations.

Mr. *Holton*—What view did he take of these complaints? What did he say respecting them?

Mr. *Fleming*—He thought the contractors were very much mistaken with regard to him. He thought that he had assisted them in every legitimate way, and they did not seem to appreciate it. And he was no doubt a good deal annoyed at the idea of being removed to some other district, having taken from the beginning an interest in that district.

Mr. *Holton*—He having been sustained all along by you, as Chief Engineer, in his management of that district?

Sir *John Macdonald*—Of course, he expected that any remarks before the work was finished was a reflection upon himself.

Mr. *Fleming*—Yes.

Sir *John Macdonald*—And he did not like that.

Mr. *Holton*—I have no further questions to ask, and no other witnesses to call. If there be no other evidence to be taken, I shall simply move, in accordance with our usual practice, that the evidence taken by the Committee be reported to the House.

The motion was carried.