

communication to my hon. friend before he made his address, because I, myself, was unaware of it before, and I supposed he was also unaware of that position of the affair; and with his well-known sense of justice, I thought it extremely probable that being able to inform him of those facts, and something more which I propose to state on the subject, he would not have thought it necessary to press the motion for the evidence. I am authorized to state that as soon as the Session is over it is the intention of the right hon. head of the Department of Railways and Canals to take up this matter of the Welland Canal, not only with reference to the evidence taken and the reports made as to the conduct of Mr. Ellis, but on other matters connected with the canal, which he is satisfied require investigation, and the whole matter will then be dealt with finally, as far as the Government can deal with it. But until my right hon. friend has had the opportunity of examining this evidence it is quite impossible for him to pronounce any opinion; and he does not either differ or agree with my hon. friend in his view of the conduct of Mr. Ellis, because in reality he knows nothing about it, except what he has read in the report, and probably what he has read of my hon. friend's previous address. It is obvious that the head of the Department cannot act, so far, at all events, as dismissing or punishing an officer, without reading the evidence on which he is to be condemned. That duty the Premier proposes to do, as soon as the exigencies of public duty will enable him to read this evidence and study these reports. I lay on the Table the second report which my hon. friend asked for, as I told him I would; but as to the evidence, I submit to this House that the Government should have an opportunity of reading the evidence, and determining upon the conclusion which it is to come to upon that evidence, before publishing it or laying it before the people. The proper course, undoubtedly, is for the Government to make up their minds what they propose to do; then, if my hon. friend or any other member desires either to criticise the decision of the Government, or to ascertain whether, in his opinion, the Government have done right or wrong, of course it will be perfectly competent for him to move for this evidence, and if the House see fit to order it, to have it laid on the Table.

But in the meantime I submit to my hon. friend, and I am sure he will recognize the justice of what I say, that I think he should not press his motion for the evidence until the head of the Department has had an opportunity to see it himself. If the decision to which he comes between now and next session of Parliament is not satisfactory to my hon. friend, of course his motion will come before the House whenever he chooses to make it, at the ensuing Session, and the decision can be criticized.

HON. MR. McCALLUM—As far as I am concerned, I have no feeling in the matter. Supposing I were to insist on my motion now, and it were passed, we cannot get the evidence this Session. At best it could only be laid on the Table next Session. I am quite satisfied that the Premier has no time to read the evidence. I do not think for a moment that he is going to wade through 2,371 pages. I hope that he will not be punished by the people of this country to that extent. If he had wanted to do that, he was getting the evidence from day to day as it was taken, and the Commissioner by his letters shows that he was receiving intimations from the Government. One thing the Government should do in the interests of the country is either dismiss these parties that have been found guilty, or publish the evidence to the world, so that the public can come to a conclusion on the subject for themselves. That I ask, and the people of this country will expect. Of course, I will withdraw that part of the motion calling for the evidence, and when next Session arrives I will know what course to pursue. As the hon. gentleman told me once before, the Government have nothing to hide. I said then, and I say now, I cannot see for the life of me why the Government have anything to hide in the matter.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—They have nothing to hide.

HON. MR. McCALLUM—When I take the remarks of the hon. gentleman from Belleville, and put everything together, and show you by the extract I have read from the *St. Catharine's Star* how the business of this country is suffering, I ask the House: are the Government justified in keeping such a man at the head of so important a work one moment longer? Even the report itself, which is on the