

towards completion, employment would have been furnished to hundreds now out of work, a market afforded for some of our farm products, and the depression which had been felt in that section of the country, as well as in the other parts of the Dominion, would have been relieved. He thought it was desirable that this House and the country should be put in possession of the information for which he had asked, and he thought they should know why a work of such vital importance, upon which so much money had been expended, and which was lying unproductive, should be suspended or abandoned. The endless and unnecessary delays which had taken place in connection with these works had been a cause of great disappointment to many, and of general and wide-spread dissatisfaction.

MR. JONES moved in amendment, that the said resolution be amended by adding the following words:—"And all papers, letters, correspondence and reports, in any way relating to the Carillon works from their inception in 1873, to the present time, as also Messrs. Shanly and Keefer's report on the work, which was submitted to the Government by the contractors."

MR. TUPPER said there was no objection to the motion. The facts stated by the hon. mover were nearly, if not altogether, accurate. The tenders were sent in in 1873, the work to be completed in 1875, but it was not finished. During the past season, it was taken out of the hands of the contractors by the Government, and tenders invited; and, finding that Mr. McNamee's tender was the lowest, his (Mr. Tupper's) decision was to award it to him. But before the contract was entered into, without his altering his mind, or any change in the opinion of the Government taking place as to the importance of the work, the financial position of the country was found to be such as to render it inadvisable to press on a large public expenditure that would admit of postponement. It was entirely in consequence of that state of affairs that the Government informed Mr. McNamee that at present the work would be suspended. It was suspended,

though it was the desire of the Government to proceed with it as soon as they could, consistently with the financial position of the country. He was not able to say whether it would be possible to provide for the prosecution of that work this year; the matter was under consideration, and, when a decision was arrived at, he would inform the hon. gentleman. A large portion of the amendment was unobjectionable, but it was not usual to bring down estimates of the engineers upon which contracts were let. Such papers were considered to be, to a certain extent, confidential, and their production would, he was afraid, establish a bad precedent. If the hon. gentleman struck out the clause on that subject, he (Mr. Tupper) saw no objection to the amendment.

MR. MACKENZIE said he was very glad that the hon. gentleman who had just spoken had decided on the course indicated. It would be extremely inconvenient and prejudicial to the public service if the approximate estimates prepared by the engineers were made public; they should be held as sacred, for the eyes of the Minister alone. It was quite impossible to calculate the injury that might result from their publication.

MR. JONES said he would not oppose the suggestion for amendment made by the Minister of Public Works; but he must say the House should have cognizance of all matters connected with the Public Works of the country—not so much in this matter with regard to what works were now in progress, but with regard to what was past. He did think the House should be informed of all matters connected with the contract for this work, and that the engineers should not be enabled to shield themselves from responsibility for any errors or mistakes they might have made.

MR. WHITE (North Renfrew) said he regretted exceedingly to learn from the Minister of Public Works that it was not the intention of the Government to proceed with the prosecution of that work during the ensuing summer. This matter was brought before the attention of the House on former occasions, in 1877