

CANADA. PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, } IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION
 City of Ottawa.

Appointing CHARLES DEWEY DAY, ANTOINE POLETTE, and JAMES ROBERT GOWAN, Commissioners to inquire into and report upon the several matters stated in a certain Resolution moved by the Hon. Mr. HUNTINGTON, in the House of Commons, on the second day of April, A.D. 1873, relating to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Present: THE COMMISSIONERS.

On this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, personally came and appeared before us, the above-named Commissioners,

The Hon. GEDEON OUMET, of the City of Quebec, Provincial Secretary and Member of Public Instruction for the Province of Quebec, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:

Having heard read that portion of the charge contained in the Royal Commission, which reads as follows:

"That in anticipation of the Legislation of last session, as to the Pacific Railway, an agreement was made between Sir Hugh Allan, acting for himself and certain other Canadian Promoters, and G. W. McMullen, acting for certain United States capitalists, whereby the latter agreed to furnish all the funds necessary for the construction of the contemplated Railway, and to give the former a certain per centage of interest, in consideration of their interest and position, the scheme agreed upon being ostensibly that of a Canadian Company, with Sir Hugh Allan at its head."

I have no knowledge of such an arrangement, and I would add that, from communication with Sir George Etienne Cartier, Sir Hugh Allan, and some of the Directors of the Northern Colonization Railway, I was induced to think the contrary.

I do not know G. W. McMullen.

I do know Sir H. Allan.

I have never had any knowledge touching this arrangement, or any other of the kind.

I have no knowledge that the Government entertained the idea of entering into an arrangement of this kind. I say this because of frequent communications with the late lamented Sir George Cartier, who certainly entertained altogether contrary opinions.

I don't know that the Government, or any member of the Government, entertained the idea of entering into arrangements with Americans, or of forming any Company for the purpose of constructing the Pacific Railway in which American capitalists were to be included.

Q.—What was the nature of your relations?

A.—As a member of the Government of the Province of Quebec, I took an active part in the policy inaugurated by that Government in favour of the construction of railways within the limits of our Province, among others the Montreal Northern Colonization Railway. After the formation of that Company, the Government of Quebec did me the honour to select me as one of the directors to represent that Government in this Company. Beyond my interest as a member of the Government, I was much interested in the construction of that Railway, as being a proprietor in the City of Montreal, and also as a member in the Local Legislature for the County of Two Mountains, through which the contemplated Railway was to pass. I also took an active part with my friends in endeavouring to induce the citizens of Montreal to subscribe the million of dollars which was asked for that great enterprise. The question of a depot within or near the limits of the City of Montreal was considered one of vital importance for the town as well as for the province of Quebec. With a view to securing the success of the Railway, we addressed ourselves to Sir Hugh Allan in his capacity as a great financier and as an eminent man in our province, in the hope to secure a more easy and certain result. It was thus, when the Pacific Railway came up as an important political question in the Confederation, that I made efforts with my friends with a view to have this great Railway united with the Northern Colonization Railway, that it might pass through the Province of Quebec and have its depot within or near the City of Montreal; and it was then that I worked to favour the Pacific Railway, the object being to secure the success of the Northern Colonization Railway. My communications with Sir Hugh Allan were to this effect, and it was equally with the same objects in view that my name appeared as one of the provisional Directors in the Canada Pacific Railways Act of 1872; and concerning the appearance of my name in the Act of Incorporation, I may say that I only knew of its being there after the Bill had passed through the committee, and, as I said before, I was sufficiently favourable to the enterprise not to make any objection, and I made none. This