

## Fredericton and St. Mary's Bridge Inquiry.

35. In what shape is it?—I don't know who has the mortgage. I think in this case, if I may be allowed to refer to the Act, it is 50-51 Victoria, I am speaking from memory, but it was under the conduct of the Department of Railways, and on the estimate of their engineer that the work was done and on the deposit of the mortgage the Auditor General was asked to issue a certificate that the money should be paid.

36. But are you aware that the mortgage is in existence?—I know there is such a thing.

37. In what department?—In the Department of Railways and Canals.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—Well, I suppose the Department of Railways and Canals will produce it?

Mr. HAGGART—I think it has been produced in the House.

Mr. FOSTER—It was asked for by the House, and it is in the returns to the House, I think.

*By Sir Richard Cartwright :*

38. Then, Mr. Courtney, in point of fact, you knew nothing about this?—Except those letters.

39. You have no information about the company?—None whatever.

40. And you are not aware that any other steps whatever were taken to collect any portion of this money?—I am not aware of any further steps being taken.

41. And the deed, you say, is in the hands of the Department of Railways and Canals?—I believe so.

*By Mr. McMullen :*

42. Did the company make any return annually, showing the receipts and the expenditures connected with the operation of the bridge?—I imagine they would do that under the Railway Act and to the Railway Department.

43. You know of none?—I know of none whatever.

44. Then with regard to this item on page XVI of the Public Accounts : How long is it since an account of this kind has been opened? Interest—special account—when was that opened?—I don't know how far the Albert Railway loan goes back, but it must have been open for some years before the Fredericton and St. Mary bridge business came up.

45. Why was it left open until this time? Do you look upon these items that are here as a kind of profit and loss account, or what?—No; they are an asset of the Dominion.

46. Are they counted in as an asset in your balance sheet?—Yes, certainly.

47. And credit taken for them?—Yes; credit taken for them.

48. And the interest is taken also?—The interest is credited to Consolidated Fund and debited to Special Interest account.

49. And the interest is here stated? For instance, \$60,000 Fredericton Bridge Co. is counted in as earning interest and an asset of the Dominion in balancing the accounts of the Dominion, and is deducted when you make the per capita rate of interest of this Dominion?—Yes; certainly.

50. It is deducted out of that?—Yes; certainly.

51. It is deducted out of that?—Yes.

52. How is it about the Quebec Harbour bonds, are they treated in the same way?—I believe so.

53. Well, now, here in these four items there are \$805,000?—I beg your pardon.

54. In these four items there are \$805,000. Now, on balancing the account for the year, is that sum taken as an asset?—I believe so. I could look it up in a few minutes, but I believe it is reckoned off the net debt.

55. Well, we should like to know?—Well, I believe it is so, but I could make sure very soon.

56. This is taken out as an available asset and deducted from the gross debt of this country. Are there any other accounts that stand in the same shape?—Only these four.