

five hundred dollars for the claim which the Government has against him, and on the property known as Notre Dame des Anges farm, I have the honor to inform you that the Government cannot accept this offer, seeing that it has already refused an offer of eight thousand dollars for the same claim. WITHOUT ENGAGING previously to accept, the Government would be disposed to take into consideration an offer of ten thousand dollars.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed,) F. LANGELIER,

Minister of Crown Lands.

G. MEVILLER DECHENE, Esq.,
Advocate, Quebec.

On the 15th of May for five thousand (\$5,000) dollars Mr. Gowen became proprietor of the claim for which on the 22nd of February Mr. Langelier refused to bind himself to accept ten thousand dollars.

On the 22nd of February you see it was Mr. Bickell with whom Mr. Langelier treated, and Mr. Bickell is not the brother-in-law of the Hon. H. G. Joly prime minister of the province.

As our readers have seen by the report of Mr. Philippe Huot, quoted by us yesterday, and by the letter of Mr. Langelier to Mr. Dechene, the Government refused to enter into an engagement of an offer at the least of \$10,000 on the part of Mr. Bickell.

The report of Mr. Huot is dated the 17th February and the letter of Mr. Langelier the 22nd, of same month.

Hammond Gowen, the happy brother-in-law, who held the cards, seeing that the Government had refused to negotiate with Mr. Bickell, inasmuch as he had not commenced by an offer of \$10,000 thought that it was time to give the final stroke.

Mr. Marchand, who made his apprenticeship as a speculator in a canal job, replaced in the Crown Lands the "scrupulous" Frs. Langelier.

The report of Mr. Huot and the letter of Mr. Langelier asking \$10,000 were both precious documents.

There was also the offer of Mr. Gowen dated the 22nd January 1878 to pay \$8,000 for the Government rights, and, according to Mr. Huot, a further offer by Mr. Gowen to pay even \$10,000.

It was necessary however to relieve Mr. Gowen. Mr. Marchand undertook the task. In three or four questions put in writing to Mr. Huot, official pressure

was brought to bear to seek a subterfuge to induce this public officer to depreciate the value of the Government claims.

This Government functionary was asked "but if the property was sold by the Sheriff without delay, immediately, what price would it fetch? But if proceedings were instantly taken what would be the result, etc.?"

Mr. Philippe Huot, who in his report of the 17th February recommended at least \$10,000, dared not draw back; he tampered and hesitated. He explained himself as follows:

"QUEBEC, April 29, 1879.

To the Honorable H. G. MARCHAND,
Commissioner of Crown Lands;

SIR,—In reply to three questions which have been asked me at the foot of my report, dated the 17th February 1878, in reference to the offer of Mr. J. Bickell of the sum of \$4,500 cash, in settlement of all Government claims against Notre Dame des Anges farm, I have the honor to report, firstly, that if judicial proceedings were taken against Messrs. Gowen and Bickell and Notre Dame des Anges farm now sold, it might happen that in the crisis now pending this property would not fetch more than \$4,500."

If the property were sold it might happen etc.

Yes, it might happen but this is what happened, that on the 15th May, Gowen borrowed \$9,000 on this property!!!

The public can now see by what shameful means, Mr. Hammond Gowen has been brought officially upon the scene.

We must read the end of Mr. Huot's letter.

"Mr. Bickell's offer cannot be accepted I think without informing Mr. Gowen, for he offered \$8,000 and I am told afterwards withdrew this offer."

This is a "hearsay" which we shall explain at the enquiry, for in the report of the 17th February 1879 which we published yesterday Mr. Huot says:

"I have the honor to report that this offer does not cover even the half of the capital of a single claim of the Crown on this property and that Mr. GOWEN in January 1878 offered eight thousand dollars for the same purpose, and having since expressed his intention of paying ten thousand dollars if the Government would accept them, which offer is still open."

On the 17th of February the agent of the Notre Dame des Anges property in-