

Mr. *Holton*—Which none of us have. (Laughter.)

Sir *Francis Hincks*—Which many of us unfortunately have, are not people who are always very ready to admit it themselves.

Mr. *Holton*—And hence the impropriety of quoting what is said to be an admission of Mr. Smith when he is 3,000 miles away, and unable to speak for himself.

Mr. *Mackenzie*—I thought Mr. Walsh was to give us a specimen of Mr. Smith's bad temper.

Mr. *Walsh*—There was never any cause for the display of it as towards myself.

Mr. *Mackenzie*—All your allegations amount then, to this, that instead of going into a long argument with the contractors, he sometimes used very vigorous language, which caused unpleasantness.

Mr. *Walsh*—He did, certainly.

Mr. *Mackenzie*—Are you aware that any of the sureties furnished any portion of the capital ?

Mr. *Walsh*—I am not aware.

Mr. *Mackenzie*—You say that the sureties made complaints verbally, both on the ground and here in Ottawa. Were they then in the habit of attending at the works ?

Mr. *Walsh*—I cannot say they were in the habit. I have met them in the works ; one of the sureties in each of the cases I have mentioned—Mr. Fry and Mr. Holmes.

Mr. *Mackenzie*—Did you understand they were there on a transient visit or in constant attendance upon the works ?

Mr. *Walsh*—I think they were on a transient visit. They are both gentlemen largely engaged in business in Quebec, as you are aware. Mr. Brydges reminds me that the sureties of Boggs and Co. met us when we were down last year, and also made representations. They thought the contractors should get more money than they had received.

Mr. *Mackenzie*—Did they make complaints also about Mr. Smith ?

Mr. *Walsh*—Yes. I remember now their representing that they thought they were entitled to a revision of the prices in consequence of there being a less amount of work to do than was estimated. Mr. Brydges says they also made complaints in regard to Mr. Smith, but I do not remember the nature of them.

Mr. *Holton*—I would like to ask Mr. Fleming a few questions. First, How long has he known Mr. Marcus Smith ? What are his impressions of his professional qualifications ? And whether he was appointed upon his recommendation to the position he recently occupied on the Intercolonial Road ?

Mr. *Fleming*—I met Mr. Smith first over fifteen years ago, when he was Chief Engineer of the Hamilton and Toronto Railway. I had no professional connection with him till some three years ago. Knowing he was a man of high standing, and well recommended by all who had to do with him, I engaged him to conduct certain portions of the survey in the neighborhood of the Restigouche River, before the Commissioners were appointed. When the Commissioners were appointed, on my recommendation he was appointed as District Engineer for the Restigouche District, embracing about 130 miles.

Mr. *Holton*—How has he discharged his duty as District Engineer during these three years ?

Mr. *Fleming*—Very ably.

Mr. *Holton*—You have heard the evidence that has been given by the Chairman of the Commission. Assuming that you are in possession of that, I shall ask you whether you ever heard of the complaints made against Mr. Smith by the contractors on the two grounds mentioned—First, his mode of preparing the monthly estimates ; and, secondly, as to his infirmity of temper. I ask you whether these complaints were ever brought to your knowledge ?

Mr. *Walsh*—It is not a question of the estimates.

Mr. *Holton*—Well, Mr. Fleming will answer the question ; he knows all the facts.

Mr. *Fleming*—The shortest answer is to say that I concur in what Mr. Walsh has stated. I think his statement is substantially correct.