

*Answer to Mr. Cunningham.*—On being shewn five signatures of “C. Nolin,” (apparently different) to vouchers, four witnessed by me and one by Mr. Spence, I am satisfied that those witnessed by me were signed by Charles Nolin in my presence. I wish to be allowed to state in explanation of my statement, “that although the handwriting was different in some of the Nolin vouchers, I was convinced that any document to which my name was attached as witness was signed in the signature acknowledged in my presence by the party to whom the amount had been paid. That when I gave the answer in respect to occurrences as far back as 1871, it was without full recollection of the circumstances, and relying upon my invariable habit with respect to witnessing documents, for the correctness of my assertion. Subsequently, in conversation with Mr. Spence on the subject of the dissimilarity of the handwriting, Mr. Spence explained that he himself had written Charles Nolin’s name, and recalled the circumstances to my memory. The following is an explanation:—

The vouchers had been prepared for some time for Nolin’s signature. Spence had asked him several times to come to the office and sign the document. He had gone out, at least once, to Oak Point, where Nolin lives, to get his signature, but had missed seeing him. I had met Nolin in the streets of Winnipeg, and explained to him that it was necessary he should sign receipts for the money he had received. He promised to call at my office and sign the vouchers, but neglected to do so. One evening I saw him from my office window driving down to the ferry, and I ran and overtook him, and tried to get him to come back and sign the documents; he urged his hurry, and that night was coming on. Mr. Spence had by this time come up with the vouchers, which I explained to him. He said they were perfectly right, and turning to Spence said, “You know they are all right, sign for me.” On our return Spence did so, and I witnessed the signature. I had full evidence in this and all other cases of accounts to which my name is attached, that the work had been done, and the money paid therefor by the Hudson’s Bay Company.

I am not aware, of my own personal knowledge, that the heads of the department were aware of the accounts being sent back to be put in proper form, or that the pay lists and vouchers were not made out until long after the money had been paid. These vouchers were sent in and accepted by me as *bona fide* vouchers.

*By Hon. Mr. Mitchell*—Do these vouchers represent *bona fide* payments?—I believe them to represent *bona fide* payments by the Hudson’s Bay Company. The *road books* are in my office at Fort Garry. Payments were made partly in cash and partly in supplies.

W. FRED. BUCHANAN.

Sub-Committee met.

Wednesday, 29th April, 1874.

*Mr. S. J. Dawson examined:—*

I commenced explorations from Thunder Bay westward, in the month of June, 1868. I had general charge of the Dawson Route in 1870, though I had begun its construction in 1869.

The Fort Garry end of the road was begun in 1870 by the orders of the commandant of the military, by the Hudson Bay Company.

There was work done in the fall of 1868 by Mr. Snow, who was sent out for that purpose. I had no direct charge or supervision of that section of the road at that time; he was sent out independently of me, and reported to the department direct.

I accompanied the military expedition on its way to Red River, acting for the Department of Public Works. Colonel Wolseley wrote to Mr. McTavish, agent of the Hudson’s Bay Company, that he should organize a force and send out to work on the road to the Lake of the Woods; this road was considered a military necessity.

I went out from Fort Garry, a few days after the arrival of the troops, to see what had been done. I found the Hudson’s Bay Company had a considerable force of workmen on the road, and I directed them to continue the organization and increase the force, during the fall as much as available supplies would permit, so as to get it through as far as possible for the following summer.