

CANADA.

A.—Not that I recollect. Sir Hugh Allan informed me that he did not attach the slightest importance to the promise of repayment.

I think, if the Commission will allow me to refer to it, I remember a statement which appears in a Chicago paper, said to have been made by Mr. McMullen to some newspaper editor there, respecting an agreement which he says was executed subsequently to the 30th July, and he mentions a circumstance which he appears to think confirms his position in connection with the agreement. He says it was written by three clerks in my office, so that none of them might know its contents. No such agreement was ever prepared or written, but as a matter of fact the first letter which has appeared before your Honours was written by three clerks in my office. The first two pages were written by two different clerks, and the third leaf was written by a third clerk, and that is the paper of which some person, I have not the slightest doubt, who has been willing to betray confidence, has given him an inaccurate description, and caused Mr. McMullen to suppose that it was a different paper from that produced.

Q.—Why was it written by three clerks?

A.—Simply because the space of time between the interviews was so short, I had to write it out or dictate it, get it extended, corrected and recopied, and so I placed one sheet in the hands of each clerk to save time. If I had supposed it possible that any one of those clerks could have been bribed to disclose the contents of the paper I might have been more anxious to prevent their knowing what it contained, but I had no such idea and no such motive.

Q.—Were you present at any other interview, or do you know of any communication between Sir Hugh Allan and any members of the Government in relation to the subscription of money for the elections?

A.—No, I never heard of any other.

Q.—Do you know how these moneys were spent at all?

A.—I cannot say that I do. I have a general knowledge that they were expended in furthering the elections in different parts of the Province.

Q.—Sir George Cartier's election?

A.—Yes, and other elections. I do not know many of the details; I have personal knowledge of scarcely any of them. I was not a member of his Committee, and did not take part in his election, as I had enough to do in attending to my own.

Q.—Did you ever hear from Sir Hugh Allan an expression of expectation of receiving any advantage from the Government?

A.—He certainly had the expectation of receiving advantage. He expected to retain in power the Government whose policy he approved of, but as to the Pacific Charter, beyond sustaining in power the Government which was disposed to carry out the building of the Pacific Railway, I most unhesitatingly say that I never heard a word from him.

Q.—You were in very intimate relations with him on this subject?

A.—Yes. I did not see him very often, but he seemed to speak to me without any reserve.

Q.—Do you know Mr. Foster?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was he present at any of your interviews with Mr. McMullen?

A.—I think he was present at interviews with Mr. McMullen during the Session. He was one of the Directors of the Canada Pacific Railway Company, and we desired to get him on the Board of the Canadian Pacific. He is a man of considerable railway experience, and I believe of capital. He was entirely in the confidence of the Company, and during the Session of 1872 assisted, to some extent, in getting the Bill through. And I have no doubt that Mr. Foster, Mr. McMullen, and myself frequently met during that Session.

Q.—Did you ever have any conversation in Mr. Foster's presence in relation to any sums of money to be paid to the Government or any member of it?

A.—To the best of my recollection, no. Nothing of that sort was ever contemplated at all to my knowledge, either during the Session or afterwards. The election fund, to which Sir Hugh Allan afterwards contributed, was not, I think, spoken of at all during the Session, except as I had previously stated. After the Session I saw very little of Mr. Foster, and nothing at all of Mr. McMullen for a considerable time.

Q.—Sir Hugh Allan mentioned that he had never given anything so large at any previous elections. Did it occur to you that this was a very large sum for him to give on this occasion?

A.—I know nothing of what he had given on previous occasions, but I certainly thought that this was a very large sum for him to give. At the same time it must be observed that he did not agree deliberately to subscribe the whole of this sum at once.