

CANADA.

previous to the terms of it being agreed upon, but reference was made to it in a later period of the day.

And further deponent saith not, and this his deposition having been read to him, he declares that it contains the truth, persists therein, and hath signed.

Sworn and taken on the nineteenth day of }
September, 1873, and acknowledged } (Signed) HUGH ALLAN.
on 25th day of said month and year.

(Signed) CHARLES DEWEY DAY, Chairman.

A. POLETTE,

JAMES ROBERT GOWAN, Commissioners.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, }
City of Ottawa.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION

Appointing CHARLES DEWEY DAY, ANTOINE POLETTE, and JAMES ROBERT GOWAN, Commissioners to inquire into and report upon the several matters stated in a certain Resolution moved by the Hon. Mr. HUNTINGTON in the House of Commons on the second day of April, A.D. 1873, relating to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Present: THE COMMISSIONERS.

On this nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, personally came and appeared before us, the above-named Commissioners,

The Honourable JOHN J. C. ABBOTT, of the City of Montreal, Advocate, who being sworn, deposeth and saith:

Q.—You reside in Montreal?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You are an advocate?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And a member of the House of Commons?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know Sir Hugh Allan?

A.—I do.

Q.—Have you been connected with him of late years in railroad operations?

A.—I have been associated with him in two or three railroad enterprises during the last year or two.

Q.—Do you know Mr. G. W. McMullen?

A.—I do.

Q.—You are aware of the charges relating to the construction of the Pacific Railroad, and the furnishing of money for the elections, recited in the Commission. Will you have the kindness to state in detail what you know of these matters?

A.—My first interview with Sir Hugh Allan on the subject of the Pacific Railway was very shortly after the Session of 1871. Then I suggested to him that this enterprise would be a fit object for gentleman of his position and wealth. To that he replied, "Well, put down your ideas in writing," but this I did not do for reasons which it is unnecessary to mention now. I did not take any further steps then. The next I heard of the Pacific Railroad from Sir Hugh was when he called on me in Montreal, I think in the month of March, 1872, and asked me if I would assist him, as he was going to take up the enterprise. I agreed to do so, and shortly afterwards I met Mr. McMullen at his house in the evening, at a dinner party or something of that sort. He (Sir Hugh) then told me that he had made an arrangement with certain American capitalists to form a Company to build this road; that he had been in communication with the Government about it, and that he thought they could organize a Company that would build it, and that they would get the contract. As far as I recollect, he did not show me either the contract or the supplementary contract on that occasion. In fact I did not see either the one or the other until within the last few days, except the contract which I saw for a moment at Montreal in the early part of this year, at a meeting I had with Mr. McMullen and two of his friends, and I have not yet read them carefully. He said that the Americans had sketched a Bill for the incorporation of the Company; that they thought the best mode of getting the road built was by a corporation, and he gave me these two Bills as a sort of basis for the preparation of the legislation that was required for the incorporation of the Company. I took them, and that was about all that passed on that occasion. I was not told who the people were, and I think did not know until a very considerable time afterwards, except that one of them was Mr. J. Gregory Smith. I did not know that there had been any formal agreement executed