

colleagues did, and endeavoured to arouse Canadians in the enterprise. I went to Toronto and saw Messrs. Macpherson, Gzowski, Col. Cumberland, Mr. Howland and his son, and Gooderham & Worts, and in fact every one, and endeavoured to induce them to enter into the great enterprise. I told them, as Hon. Sir Francis Hincks told Sir Hugh Allan, that by law there was no other way of building the road but by a company, and that they ought to get up a grand company, get a charter and go to England for any capital they needed.

As I went to Toronto, Hon. Sir Francis Hincks went accidentally to Montreal, and told Sir Hugh about the American gentlemen who had called on us, and the fault I found with my friend Sir Francis, and which I ventured to tell him when he was a member of the Government was, that while merely attempting to stimulate Sir Hugh to go into the work, he had named to him that he had better put himself in communication with the American capitalists. That was the act of Hon. Sir Francis Hincks. That was his concern, and I would not at all object to American capital, or capital from England, or anywhere else, but I told Sir Francis on his return that he had been premature in this, that we ought to have kept to a great Canadian Company before any offer or intimation that Americans might come in was made.

Then Sir Hugh, acting on the hint given by Sir Francis, and it was no more than a hint—it was in no way a Government action—communicated with the Americans, and we had a visit from a number of Americans with Sir Hugh; and Mr. Speaker, I being spokesman on both occasions, gave them precisely the same answer that they were premature; that we were very glad to see them, but we could make no arrangement until Parliament met. I said we would be very glad, however, to hear any proposition, and asked them whether they had any to make. Sir Hugh asked in return whether we were in a position to entertain a proposition; and on our replying in the negative, he rejoined that he had no proposition to make. And these were all the communications between the Canadian Government and these gentlemen. (*Cheers.*) This statement cannot be controverted, and will not be.

In the meantime a sectional jealousy had arisen, instead of, as I had hoped, a joint action between the capitalists of Montreal and Toronto, and instead of, as I had hoped, there being a rush and anxiety among our moneyed men in the different parts of Canada to form one great Company, for the work required united exertion, there was a jealousy fanned from some quarter, which we know now, and this jealousy prevented the two great bodies of capitalists, who ought to have built the road, from joining, and all our hopes were scattered; and a feeling arose in Toronto first, that if the Montreal interest got the preponderance Toronto trade would get the go-by, and second, that Sir Hugh Allan and the Montreal interests were joined with the Americans.

That feeling grew and I am not now in a position to state, after reading the evidence and after reading the letters of Sir Hugh Allan and those published by Mr. McMullen, I am not now in a position

to state that jealousy in Toronto was ill founded. I am not in a position to state that they had not some ground of which we knew nothing for believing that the Montreal party were in communication with the Americans. I am not now in a position to state that the people of Toronto and the Inter-oceanic had not great cause for suspicion and jealousy, whether that suspicion was well or ill founded; but before Parliament met, as I have sworn and as Mr. Abbott has sworn and as every member of the House knows, the feeling against the introduction of American capital was so great that by no possibility could it be allowed entrance.

We felt, Mr. Speaker, and every member knew it, that it was necessary that every American element must be eliminated from the Acts, or they could not pass—(*cheers*)—and I appeal to hon. gentlemen who were then in the House if they do not know, as a matter of fact, that it was understood on all sides that the American element was eliminated. I understood it so; the Government understood it so, and the House understood it so, and Mr. Abbott, who undertook the management of the bill of the Montreal Company through this House, made it a special understanding with Sir Hugh Allan that it should be so before he promoted the bill, and so it was by universal consent.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that it will be said, and I may as well speak of it now, that Sir Hugh Allan's letters show that he still kept up his connection with the Americans. I knew it, and I painfully know it, that Sir Hugh Allan behaved badly and acted disingenuously towards the men with whom he was originally connected. I say that when he found that Americans were not to be admitted he ought to have written to them, and informed them that though he had made a contract with them, still so strong a feeling existed in Canada that he must at once and forever sever his connection with them.

Instead of doing so, however, he carried on a correspondence with them, a private correspondence which he has sworn no one else saw, and which he has sworn that not even his colleagues in the Canada Pacific Company knew of, not even Mr. Abbott, his confidential adviser. He says he conducted it as his own personal affair, believing and hoping that in the end the people of Canada would come to a different view, and allow American capital to be used. He has sworn that, and we never knew that he was carrying on communications with the Americans. Mr. Abbott never knew it and the Canada Pacific Company have declared that there was no connection between them and the Americans, but I have heard it said, I think, by the member for Châteauguay (Hon. Mr. Holton), is it possible that the Government would give a contract to a man who had behaved so disingenuously, and after this want of ingenuousness had been shown to the Prime Minister, by the exhibition of the correspondence?

Sir, let me say a word about that. After the Act passed and we were working with all our might to form a good company and a strong one, long after, Mr. Speaker, as it appears in the correspondence between Sir Hugh Allan and the Americans, Mr. McMullen came to my office in order to levy blackmail.