

to a body of Canadian capitalists for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway: said message was also accompanied by papers and correspondence relating to the subject, and a communication from the Government showing the futile efforts which had been made to bring about an amalgamation between the Interoceanic Railway Company of Canada and the Canada Pacific Railway Company.

On the 31st of March, 1873, Sir John A. Macdonald laid before the House correspondence on the subject of Kersteman's scheme for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

In consequence of a motion made on the 2nd of April, 1873, by the Hon. Lucius Seth Huntington, concerning the Canadian Pacific Railway, and which alleged amongst other things that he believed that an understanding had been entered into between the Government and gentlemen named by him, concerning the contract for the construction of the said railway, which was negatived;

The Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald, on the 8th of April, moved for a Committee to investigate and report on the several matters contained in Mr. Huntington's motion. The motion was carried.

A bill enabling the Committee to receive evidence under oath having been disallowed, His Excellency the Governor General wrote to Sir John Macdonald suggesting a Royal Commission in order to get over the difficulty.

On the 13th of August Parliament met and was prorogued.

On the 14th of August a Royal Commission was issued to the Hon. Charles Dewey Day, the Hon. Antoine Polette, and James Robert Gowan, Esq., to enquire into the matters and statements made by the Hon. Lucius Seth Huntington.

The Commission met at Ottawa on the 18th of August, 1873, and closed its sittings on the 1st of October. The terms of the Commission did not require the Commissioners to express their opinion. In their report they describe the course of the enquiry, and point to the evidence contained in thirty-six depositions.

On the 23rd of October, 1873, Parliament met.

The Speech from the Throne contained these words:

"The Canadian Pacific Company, to whom a Royal Charter was granted, have, I regret to say, been unable to make the financial agreements necessary for the construction of that