

By Mr. Davies :

15. And since the 30th June, 1889, nothing has been paid?—That is so.

By Sir Richard Cartwright :

16. The sum total of arrears, Mr. Courtney, on the 31st December, appears to amount to \$66,000 by your memorandum?—\$66,000 on the 31st December, and half yearly.

17. Now this correspondence I see extends over some six or seven years. You acquainted the minister of the department from time to time with the fact that these sums were not paid?—Well, with all due respect, is not a communication between the Minister and his deputy rather privileged?

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—Does the Minister raise the point?

MR. FOSTER.—I will raise no opposition.

WITNESS.—The Minister of Finance, I believe, was fully aware of the thing.

By Sir Richard Cartwright :

18. There were two or three Ministers of Finance apparently between 1888—? Mr. Foster came in 1888.

19. In 1888, did he?—Yes.

20. I thought he was a year later. However it does not matter. At any rate I suppose as a matter of course you would acquaint the Minister from time to time with the state of affairs?—The Minister of Finance is very well aware of what is in the public accounts.

21. Now, apparently no explanation whatever that I can find in these letters was given by the company as to why they did not pay?—No, none whatever.

22. And apparently they did not always answer your communications?—Sometimes they did and sometimes they did not.

23. Well now, here is a period of six years or thereabouts during which each half year a further large sum of money is accumulating due. Was no action whatever of any kind or sort taken by the department towards the collecting of these moneys that you are aware of?—Beyond the demand every year.

24. Beyond the demand? Well, is it not the practice of the department if these demands are not responded to to communicate with some other department as to the facts; to set the law in motion and collect your just debts?—Well, I do not know of any other thing that is in arrears.

25. Except the Fredericton Bridge?—I think that is all.

26. I think there are some harbour bonds of Quebec that look to me to be in arrears?—That is the only thing besides that.

27. Those two?—Yes.

28. Then no communication at all was had with the Department of Justice? Was this matter ever reported to the Council?—I don't report to Council; that is for the Minister to do.

29. Then no further authority other than the departmental was obtained for abstaining from collecting or trying to collect what is due?—Nothing was done except those two.

30. In the face of 20 or thirty communications made to the secretary-treasurer of the Fredericton and St. Mary's Bridge Co.?—That is all.

31. Did you obtain any information as to who composed the Fredericton and St. Mary's Bridge Co.?—Nothing whatever.

32. You know nothing at all about them?—I know nothing whatever.

33. Of any kind?—Nothing at all, though I may make a remark that the advance is made under Act of Parliament. It shows how the advance should be made and under what conditions.

34. Yes, I am aware of that Do you know whether this is secured by any form of mortgage?—Yes.