

thought the country was not suffering by it. I remember that when I was employing printers, I used to pay them 30 cents per thousand ems, and when this contract was given at 25 cents per thousand, I thought the country would not suffer.

*By the Chairman :*

1313. You had no conversation with any member of the Committee to lead you to this conclusion?—Not at all.

E. J. CHARLTON.

PATRICK BOYLE, sworn and examined :—

*By Hon. Mr. Macfarlane :*

1314. You are one of the parties who made a tender for the printing contract?—I am.

1315. State what took place, please?—After the contract was awarded, as I understood, I came to Ottawa. I had previously received a telegram from Mr. Roger, wanting to know if he could meet me in Toronto. I telegraphed or wrote to him immediately that I intended going to Ottawa, and would see him there. I did not know his business when he telegraphed. My recollection of the date of my arrival here is that it was on Sunday morning; some of the witnesses say, however, that it was on Saturday. On Sunday I went, by invitation, to Mr. Roger's house, and we had some conversation about the contract. There was nothing special done at that interview. On the second occasion he did not make me a direct proposition, but he hinted that he was prepared to buy me out; I answered in the now somewhat notorious phrase which has got into print, "that I had done nothing crooked so far, and I was too old to begin now." We talked over matters generally; but the only proposition I would agree to was that if the contract was awarded to me, I would take a third interest. That ended the interview. On the next day, I think, Mr. Cotton came to me and said Mr. Charlton wished to see me. Charlton was stopping at O'Meara's Hotel, I think, and when I went there I met him and Mr. Cotton. I think it was Charlton made a similar proposition to that of Mr. Roger's, namely, that something might be made out of my tender, and I replied in nearly the same terms as those in which I had replied to Mr. Roger. I took up my hat to leave, when Mr. Charlton said, "Well, never mind; Cotton and I will talk this matter over." I said, "You gentlemen can do as you please—I will have nothing to do with it." I left and went to where I was stopping. I think this was on Monday. I went to Ald. Starrs' and wrote a letter to Mr. Hartney. The letter was to the effect that I wished to withdraw my tender, and I desired my cheque to be sent to Toronto. Mr. Cotton happened to be at Mr. Starrs', and when I had the letter written I asked him if he would be kind enough—as he had given me to understand that he was going towards the Parliament Buildings—to give the letter to Mr. Hartney. That is all I know about it.

*By Hon. Mr. Bowell :*

1316. Did he witness the letter in your presence?—No. I did not know it was withdrawn at all until I saw it in Toronto.

*By Hon. Mr. Macfarlane :*

1317. How did you deliver it to him—sealed or unsealed?—I think I sealed the letter, but I could not swear. I told him it was my letter of withdrawal.

*By Mr. Thompson (Haldimand) :*

1318. You are not certain whether you sealed it or not?—I am inclined to believe I sealed it.

*By Mr. Ross :*

1319. Had you no conversation with Charlton and Cotton after you made that remark about your never having done anything crooked and your being too old to begin now?—I never saw Charlton after that until I saw him in Toronto. He says