

Mr. Hall & Son

JU82

Box 1

Presented by

Hon. J. S. Hall

Mar. 8, 1905.

THE KAMINISTIGUIA AFFAIR

The Parliamentary Investigation.

REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE.

THE "JOB" EXPLODED

WHY THE TERMINUS WAS SELECTED.

THE NEEBING HOTEL.

Testimony Before the Senate Committee.

(From the OTTAWA FREE PRESS, July 4th, 1878.)

Perhaps no single action of the present Reform Government has given rise to more and greater misrepresentations than the selection of the Lake Superior terminus of the Canada Pacific Railway, and certainly none has been more free from the very suspicion of favoritism or corruption in the opinion of unprejudiced and reflecting observers of public events. For two years, or more, the people of Canada have been treated to a surfeit of slanders, on the part of Conservative speakers and journals, in connection with what has been called the "Kaministiquia Land Job," which includes also that special delight of the Opposition, the Neebing Hotel. It is a healthy sign of a better state of affairs in Canadian politics when matters of this kind necessarily form the chief ground of attack upon an administration, however unfortunate it may be that our country contains a class of people who can consent to resort to such a necessity. It is the earnest desire of the writer of these lines to speak without exaggeration or undue party bias, but the

conviction cannot be overcome that this and other charges of a similar nature are made with singular insincerity, and for the single purpose of so injuring the characters of our present rulers, that they may be supplanted by their assailants. The administration of Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues has been remarkably free from either blunders or crimes; after nearly five years of office, it speaks volumes for their capacity and integrity, that their opponents can neither discover nor invent any greater or graver charges than this miserable Neebing Hotel affair, the Steel Rails purchase and others of a like character. It may not, perhaps, appear singular to those conversant with the history of the Conservative party during the last twenty years, that their leaders prove themselves unscrupulous enough to resort to any expedient in order to regain that place and power from which they were so summarily hurled by an indignant and outraged people a few years ago, but it is cause for extreme regret that the Senate of Canada could lend itself to the promulgation of charges that escape being mischievous, simply because they are so contemptible. Well knowing how badly the 'Kaministiquia Land Job' would fare in the popular branch of the legislature, the investigation was carried on before a Committee of the Senate, a large majority of whose members were bitter partisans, prepared to go almost any length to serve the interests of their party. The report made by that Committee, together with all the evidence taken in connection with the matter, have been published, and it is proposed to show from these how groundless have been the charges of wrongdoing in the selection of Fort William as the Lake Superior terminus of the Pacific Railway.

In considering the subject where questions or propositions actually present themselves, and it will be best, as well as most convenient, to discuss each separately.

(1.) Was the choice of the terminus a judicious one?