

person and sell it to Louis Sands, of Michigan, for \$200,000, of which \$90,000 was paid in cash, one-third of which he, the said John C. Rykert, put in his pocket?" to all of which questions the said J. C. Rykert categorically replied in the negative, and at once proceeded to make, and did make, the following statement from his place in the House:—

"The hon. gentleman has asked me several questions, and I propose now to answer them. I neither directly nor indirectly drew the money he spoke of, nor put any sum in my pocket except professional fees, and professional fees only. I deny that I negotiated any timber lease for Mr. Adams, or any other person. On the contrary, Mr. Adams had his own agents to negotiate for him; he made his own bargain, and I had nothing to do with it, and did not pocket the money the hon. gentleman has spoken of. On the contrary, I advised Mr. Adams not to dispose of the limit, but to work it. The hon. gentleman on several occasions has made remarks outside the House to the same effect, and I am glad now to have an opportunity to give it an emphatic denial."

That whereas it further appears from the said correspondence published in the said Votes and Proceedings, that certain difficulties having arisen with respect to the said limits, owing to their being claimed, in whole or in part, by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, as being within the Railway Belt, the said John C. Rykert did agree with the said Adams to use, and did inform the said Adams by letters signed with his own hand that he was using, corrupt influences with certain members of the Government of Canada and of the Parliament thereof, and with other officials thereof, in order to defeat the claim of the said Canadian Pacific Railway Company and to secure to himself and the said Adams, or their assignee, the said timber limits, and did further inform the said Adams that he had eventually successfully arranged the matter; all of which appears in the following extracts from the letters written by the said J. C. Rykert to the said Adams published in the said Votes and Proceedings, viz.:—

In the letter of 28th January, 1883:

"I have to go to Ottawa to-morrow night to fight the matter out, which I do not like. I seem to have all the hardest part of it to do. I have Bowell working for me. And if we succeed in beating the railway, we will have to pay the amount we agreed to pay, as you recollect, when we two were in the Queen's Hotel. I have not slept for a week on account of this. We must keep perfectly quiet."

And in the same letter, further on:

"I am engaging all I can to assist me at Ottawa, and we will have to pay them well for it, as we cannot afford to lose this."

And in the letter of the 12th February, 1883:

"I have not yet succeeded in doing anything, but I am pulling wires in every direction. John A.'s son from Winnipeg, McArthur's partner, is here, and I intend employing him to go for his father. I think if you had young Tupper here, and paid him pretty well, he would help us materially. The Canadian Pacific Railway has a great hold on the Government, and we must counteract this in some way."

And in the same letter:

"I am completely sick of it, as it is something I had no right to expect, and which I should not be called upon to undertake. If it costs all we spoke of, we had better do it than let it go."

And in another letter, dated 5th March, 1883, he says:

"I have not yet succeeded in getting anything done in the limit matter. I have brought Macdonald and Tupper from Winnipeg, and hope they will be able to induce their fathers to act promptly in the matter."

"I am almost discouraged at the delay. Sands is writing me daily about it. He knows all about it. Some persons sent him the papers containing the statements. Will make any effort this week, and must do something, if we have to let a note apiece go."

And in the letter of the 8th March:

"I find difficulties surrounding us in every way in reference to the limit, and I find that the Canadian Pacific Railway have certain Ministers working for them. I am afraid it will cost us each six or seven thousand dollars to get this made all right. I have five or six at work with me, and have agreed to pay them well if they succeed. Muckle was here, and told me the limit was all within the belt. I am afraid they will do their very utmost to defeat me. I want to be satisfied that you are sure I am doing what is right, and also that you will back me out in all that I do in the way of payment."

Again on the 28th March, 1883:

"I am having a hard time with the limit matter. It will cost us each at least \$5,500 to get this through. I

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have laid my ropes so that I expect to have it settled in a few days. I have a dozen at work for us. You must be prepared to pay the amount of your share at any time, as it will have to be all cash. When this is settled we must get rid of all the notes and have an end of it. It has completely used me up. The excitement and strain is too much for me. I had Tupper and Macdonald brought from Winnipeg, and they have been working hard for me."

That whereas it is apparent from the said documents and correspondence, that the said Rykert did make use of his position and influence as a member of this House, in the matter of the said limits, for his own pecuniary advantage; and that he did afterwards make a statement, from his place in this House, with regard to his connection with and the obtaining the said limits, entirely at variance with the facts, and calculated to mislead the House and the country; and that he made further statements in his correspondence with the said Adams to the effect that he was obliged to resort to corrupt practices with members of the Cabinet, and members of Parliament, and other Government officials, in order to perfect the title to the said grant of such limits (which statements have been challenged as false by members of the Cabinet, from their places in this House, and admitted by the said Rykert, in his place in the House, so far as members of the Cabinet are concerned, to be untrue).

That the conduct of the said John C. Rykert in the premises is, and has been, discreditable, corrupt and scandalous.

He said: In accordance with the understanding arrived at with the Premier the other day, I propose to call your attention to a certain motion, of which I have given notice. It is as nearly as possible a month since I took occasion to call the attention of the Government to certain correspondence, purporting to be signed by the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Rykert), which I thought required our attention. Since that time that correspondence has been placed on our Votes and Proceedings; that correspondence has been admitted to be correct by the hon. gentleman himself in his place, and in certain communications which also appear on our Votes and Proceedings. Now, in the first place, I desire to say that it appears to me that it was the duty of the Government of Canada, under these circumstances, to have taken this matter into their own hands, inasmuch as this correspondence appears to contain statements and facts which seriously affect the honor and reputation of a member of this House, and which appeared to the Government themselves to reflect so seriously on certain members of their own body, that one hon. member of the Government found it necessary to rise in his place and repudiate the apparent construction which might be placed on those letters, in the strongest possible language, while the Premier himself appears to have thought that transaction to involve such consequences that he deemed it right to cause a communication from his own son, repudiating all connection with these transactions, to be likewise placed on our Votes and Proceedings, and made part of the record. Sir, I shall not, at present, attempt to say why or wherefore the Government did not see fit to act on this matter—possibly the causes may appear in the course of this debate; but as they did not choose to act, it is clearly our duty, on this side of the House, to call your attention and that of the House itself, to these facts and to this correspondence. Now, some of these matters appear to me to involve questions of very great gravity. It is not only that the statements themselves seem to reflect gravely on the honor and reputation of an old member of this House, and a man of some prominence in it too, but I believe they reflect on the honor and reputation of the House of Commons, and of the people who sent us