

ernment. The natural explanation why that hotel was built was this, they had speculated largely in lands there, and it was their interest to add to the value of those lands by every possible means in their power, and they knew one way to draw the people to that country was to provide shelter for them. Of what use would it be for people to go to Fort William if they found no shelter to go to when they got there? Then they knew there would be a vast number of laborers employed about Government works, or prospective buildings about to rise in the town which was to become the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, they came to the conclusion it would be a very successful speculation there, and that if it were in operation for three or four years, or even a shorter time than that, a large profit would be made out of it—much larger than the price of the lumber put into it—and consequently it was not with a view of imposing on the Government, but for the purpose of adding to the value of their own land that it was built. That, I think, is the natural explanation of the reasons which influenced Oliver, Davidson & Co. to construct the Neebing Hotel. They found in Mr. Henderson a man suitable for the purpose they required, and, being a builder, they sent him to erect the hotel. The basis on which he was acting was simply this—the Neebing Hotel was to be charged to him at cost price. His interest, therefore lay in keeping down the cost as much as possible, and he was to have the privilege of renting it for five or ten years afterwards; and it appears he lost no time in getting possession of it, for no sooner had he two or three rooms completed than he applied for a tavern license, and he had a New Year's ball in the building on one occasion. That is a more natural explanation than that which has been given by hon. gentlemen opposite of the motives which influenced such men as Oliver, Davidson & Company to construct a hotel.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—The hon. Secretary of State calls them "land jobbers."

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE—Considerable stress has been laid on the evidence of Mr. Savigny and Mr. Clark, and it has

*Hon. Mr. Haythorne.*

been endeavored to implicate the Premier in a job. Mr. Mackenzie's character was too elevated, I should have thought, and too pure to have been spoken of in such terms.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Where is that done?

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE—There is nothing implicating Mr. Mackenzie in the report any more than it gives undue prominence to evidence which tells against him and his friends. For example, this testimony of Clark's is, to my mind, by no means reliable. If I were a jurymen in the case I should not attach much importance to his evidence, because it is not consistent, and otherwise is not so reliable as the testimony of Mr. Davidson. I carefully abstain from giving expression to my real opinion upon that point, because, perhaps, it would be improper to say what I believe with regard to Mr. Clark's evidence. I believe it is untrue, but I say possibly he may have been mistaken in dates, that the periods at which he says Mr. Davidson told him he had shown him a map which he had received from headquarters, was later than he supposes. I believe his statement was utterly untrue. Moreover, we have Mr. Mackenzie's evidence on that point, for he states explicitly he never said, directly or indirectly, where the terminus should be.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—No one imputes it to him.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE—It is true the Committee have not said in so many words that Clark charged Davidson with saying he obtained the information from Mr. Mackenzie; but you have given more prominence to Mr. Clark's evidence than to that of Messrs. Davidson and Leys, who are far more worthy of credence than Clark and Savigny, who contradict each other. After the very exhaustive speech of the Secretary of State, I do not feel disposed myself to go at any length into this question. I believe there are gentlemen here who can undertake the defence of the Premier of this Dominion more effectually than I can; but to no one else will I yield in my thorough