

the payment of the \$5,000. And what does it show? It shows that Mr. Adams himself had agreed with Muckle to pay him this sum for the discovery of the limit and the information which he furnished in order to enable him to make the application. It shows that this took place at a time long prior to the time when the C. P. R. put in a claim, which was not until January, 1883. It shows that this agreement was made long before the C. P. R. ever contemplated changing their line from Yellow Head to the Kicking Horse Pass, and at a time when they had no power to change the line. There is no evidence that I knew of this transaction between Adams and Muckle until a year after it had taken place; and yet you as an honest, upright judge had the impudence to declare by your verdict that I was guilty of a corrupt act in paying to Muckle money which you knew I never paid him nor had anything to do with. You knew when you penned that report that it did not contain one word of truth in respect to Muckle, and that there was not a particle of evidence to connect me with the transaction. Your report had its effect and it did its dirty work as evidenced by the leading article in *Globe* of May last, wherein it is stated that "Mr. Rykert stated before the committee that \$5,000 was paid by Adams to Mr. R. T. Muckle the timber agent of the C. P. R., in order to secure the release of the company's claim on the celebrated Cypress Hills Timber Limit." You read that article and you knew it did not contain one word of truth, and yet you were too cowardly to make the correction. You knew it would mislead the public and that was what you wanted. Again, I say, it is no wonder that Mr. Muckle in a letter published in the same editorial of the *Globe*, said: "I hereby characterize the statement with reference to me in the Rykert-commission report as an unwarranted, gratuitous and infamous lie from beginning to end, and the report lacking my evidence is a farcical insult to the people of our Dominion, and Lincoln in particular."

And yet, Mr. Blake, this is the only corrupt act of which you found me guilty. But admitting, for the sake of argument, that you were wrong when you stated in the House of Commons

that parliament had no right whatever to inquire whether I robbed Sands or any other person, or whether I had bribed any one, and that you were right in the conclusions which you drew in your report, that I had attempted to bribe Mr. Muckle to betray the C. P. railway, I would like to ask you if it were a decent thing for you to accept a fee, or what might, with greater propriety be called a bribe, from this same company to betray the interests of the Dominion in a matter which you had pronounced as a gross fraud, and on which you voluntarily held a brief on behalf of the people against the said company, and afterwards deliberately charge a fellow-member (without a scintilla of condence) with attempting to do something similar to that which you so successfully accomplished. Why do you not as an honest man come out over your signature and declare that you misled the committee of the House of Commons when you induced the minority of that committee to accept your report? Have I not just and ample reason to ask you to "speak now" and let the people of Canada know what a huge fraud you perpetrated upon parliament and what a gross injustice you did to a fellow-member? I am afraid, however, it is useless to appeal to one whose whole life has been a mystery and an enigma which nobody can solve. You are too cold-blooded to repair an injury which you have done to anybody. I do not expect that you will have manhood enough to ask parliament to reverse its unjust and illegal verdict against me, although in applying the evidence to the principles enunciated in your speech on the appointment of the committee, you would be amply justified in so doing. You may however, rest assured that I will never permit the cruel wrong which you have inflicted upon me and my family to be forgotten, and that I will spare no effort to show the people of Canada that I have been made the victim of a compromise brought about through your spiteful vindictiveness.

I shall take the liberty of again addressing you upon the same subject, as well as upon other matters connected with your past political history, which require explanation. Yours truly,

J. O. RYKERT.

July 6th, 1891.