

your attention, as chairman, to the fact that while Mr. Cunningham has preferred nothing and specified no charge whatever before the sub-committee, telegraphic despatches, unsupported by the slightest evidence and destitute of the least particle of truth, have, nevertheless, been sent broadcast over the Dominion, stating that charges of fraud have been proved.

As Mr. Cunningham's speech in the House and these slanderous telegrams are all, as relating to the "Dawson Route," associated in the public mind with my name, I think I have a right to claim the intervention of the Committee, and as it would be but fair, I would respectfully suggest that he (Mr. Cunningham) be called upon either to publicly retract, or specify and prove his charges. So far, we only have the case of the Hon. James McKay having furnished some supplies from his own stores, when in charge of the Lake of the Woods Road, before and soon after the insurrection had been suppressed, to the amount of \$1,704.

I have already explained this transaction, which occurred before I had an opportunity of fully organizing the service in that region; and while such a practice has never been permitted by me either on this or other public works constructed under my charge, the peculiar circumstances of the case in question were such as to render the act unavoidable: and as I believe that it is not pretended that Mr. McKay charged more than the stores were worth, the high and honorable character of that gentleman precludes any unsupported inference that it was done for his own benefit.

We have also the circumstance that, on the same work and about the same time, a clerk on the works committed an error in the manner of taking receipts from an illiterate person; but as the man earned and got the money, it does not affect the accounts of the Hudson's Bay Company who were then in charge and paid the amount, nor did it come under my cognizance till brought before the sub-committee by the very person who committed the error.

With these facts before you, I think I can fairly claim that Mr. Cunningham should proceed, or the public mind be disabused.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. J. DAWSON.

JAMES YOUNG, Esq., M.P.,
Chairman, Committee of Public Accounts,
&c., &c., &c.

OTTAWA, 22nd May, 1874.

SIR,—I beg leave to enclose an extra of the *Manitoban*, a newspaper published at Winnipeg by Mr. Cunningham (Marquette), and would beg to call the attention of the Committee to the part commencing "The Dawson Road Committee."

I attach to the extra a slip from the *Montreal Witness* of a later date, evidently emanating, like many others, from the same hand. I think these scandalous telegrams, in which forgery, perjury and fraud figure so largely, will, at least, exhibit to the Committee the *animus* that sometimes leads to charges against the "Dawson Route."

It is now a month since Mr. Cunningham made his general accusation in the House, in consequence of which the Sub-Committee was constituted, and, as yet, he has specified or preferred no charge whatever before it—at least, none has been communicated to me.

If he has any accusation to advance against me individually, I think I may fairly claim to be made aware of it, that I may meet it before the House rises. If the charge he is to make affects anyone else on the route, I think that in the interest of the public service he is bound to make it known; and I can assure the Committee that every effort in my power will be made to probe it to the bottom, and if discovered to be true to