

besmirched unjustly, dishonourably, the character of the Canadian Government and of the Canadian people. (*Cheers.*) If there be any delay, any postponement in the completion of that great system of railways, I charge it to the hon. gentlemen opposite. (*Cheers.*) Long after this quarrel is over, it will be recorded in the history of this Dominion of Canada that there was one body of men in this country willing to forget self, to forget Party, to forget section to build up a great interest and make a great country, and they will say that there was another Party who fought section against section, province against province, who were unable to rise to the true position of affairs, and I say the history of the future will be our justification and their condemnation. (*Loud cheers.*)

But, Sir, I have some more to say. I say this Government has been treated with foul wrongs. (*Cheers.*) I say this Government has been treated as no Government has ever been treated before. It has been met with an Opposition the like of which no Government in any civilized country was ever met. (*Loud cheers.*) I say we have been opposed not with fair weapons, not by fair argument, not by fair discussion, as a Government ought to be opposed, but opposed in a manner which will throw shame on hon. gentlemen opposite. (*Renewed cheers.*)

When we first met in this House, and we first discussed the Pacific Railway measures, I told you, Sir, that there was a confirmed plan to kill the Pacific Railway Company. The attack on the Government was a secondary matter. It was comparatively an inferior matter. But those gentlemen opposite went into the attack for the purpose of getting in evidence as quickly as possible for the purpose of sending it across the Atlantic by cable and kill Sir Hugh Allan's enterprise, and afterwards leave the proof of the evidence to chance.

Then we found that Sir Hugh Allan, by a very natural feeling, agreed to pay a certain sum of money to Mr. McMullen for the return of his correspondence, which was accepted, and the whole matter was arranged. Then blackmail was attempted to be levied on me, but I was not subject to be blackmailed. (*Laughter.*) They did levy blackmail on Sir Hugh Allan in Montreal and McMullen, for surrendering his letters to Sir Hugh, was paid \$20,000, and promised \$17,000 more on certain conditions being fulfilled. Mr. McMullen got his extra sum from some one.

The hon. gentleman (Hon. Mr. Huntington) would deny that Mr. McMullen was paid by some one. Everyone will believe that man who was to be paid that large sum of \$17,000 did not accept it because he was offered some larger sums. (*Cheers.*) I believe that when we have the Committee which the member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) challenged to move for, I shall be able to prove more than the \$17,000, and I believe I shall be able to prove there were other parties in the purchase of G.W. McMullen, who over-bid Sir Hugh Allan. (*Cheers and an Opposition member, "is it not right?"*) It was never right to buy him in the first place, nor in the second place, but if Sir Hugh Allan by paying \$17,000 committed a crime, the man who paid him a larger sum must surely have committed a larger crime. (*Laughter and cheers.*)

I say that you must have a Committee in order to ascertain who are the gentlemen who went and deliberately bought those documents from Sir Hugh Allan. That may be fair war, but some one said it was striking below the belt. The man who goes deliberately and bribes people to hand a man's private letters, is a man who will be marked as a criminal all his life, and the man who goes and deliberately purchases private letters for any purpose, even though it may do good to the public, and expose a corrupt Government, will be generally condemned. Then we come down to a little more infamy. When I tell you that a letter of mine, addressed to a colleague at Montreal, was deliberately stolen, and when I tell you there was no doubt that it was stolen because it was thought to contain something that could be made politically useful, you can understand what infamy that is.

**Mr. BLAIN** rose to a point of order, and submitted that this question was not before the House.

**The SPEAKER** ruled against him stating that it came on the Address, which covers almost every possible question connected with public affairs.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** When I wrote that letter to my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, I sent, at the same time, three telegrams to three different places, and that telegram was seen by some one acting in the interests of the Opposition, and from it they supposed that the letter would be connected with the Pacific Railway matter. That letter was deliberately stolen, not only stolen, but was stolen by an officer of the Post Office Department. I say stolen by an officer who was bought by some one, and who will some day, not long distant, for the evidence is being followed up and has not been abandoned, be found out, and it will be shown that he, believing that the letter contained something that would criminate the Government, stole it from the office and handed it over to be used in the manner the House was aware of. True it was that the letter contained nothing respecting the Pacific Railway.

I have got evidence beyond the possibility of a doubt, that my telegrams were stolen from Sir Hugh Allan's office, day after day; that a man went to the office night after night, after six o'clock and copied those telegrams and brought them down and sold them to the Opposition; that the safe of the office was not broken, and that after the documents were copied and sworn to by the man, he was paid money for them. I state this in presence of the House and of the country; and there was such a dishonest system of espionage carried on. And I say more than this, I join with the hon. member for Bothwell in asking for the Committee, before which I will prove all that I have said, and will put a credible witness in the box, who will swear he saw it with his own eyes.

You can judge how poorly the Government has been treated. In fact no Government in the world could exist if every drawer is to be searched, if every confidential servant is to be bribed by money offered to them. I may tell you this one thing, that I had got the evidence of this treachery, parties actually approached a secretary in Mr. Abbot's office, and offered him money to tell how much