

From the Toronto World, October 16, 1900.

In an interview with a representative of the World yesterday, Mr. H. H. Cook said:

'I have read the statement made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, by way of denial that he or any agent of his demanded from me any sum of money, &c. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to speak in Toronto to-morrow night, and I shall wait to see what he may have to say then upon this subject. In the meantime, I say that the statement already made by me to Mr. Tucker is absolutely true, and I shall very shortly make a full statement of the whole transaction, or what would have been a transaction, had I consented to be bled. Possibly Sir Wilfrid may be willing to escape responsibility by denying the agency of the parties. There were two of them who approached me, but no such pretense will avail them. The connection of these gentlemen with the members of the government is known to every one, and he will simply not be able to deceive any one by pretending that they did not come to me directly from the government, or that the proposition they made was not made by authority.'

From the Mail-Empire of October 31, 1900.

Affidavit of H. H. Cook in reply to Sir Wilfrid's denial.—Has documents and witnesses.—Is willing to place evidence before a royal commission.

Having made a statement to the effect that I had been asked by a person acting on behalf of the present Dominion cabinet, or certain of them, to pay a sum of ten thousand dollars in consideration of my being appointed a member of the Senate of Canada, and this having been called in question, I deem it my duty to make a plain statement to the public of the transaction, or attempted transaction. I am the more convinced that it is my duty to do this because the Prime Minister, Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, has, I am informed, made a statement which he evidently desires the public to accept as a denial, or authoritative contradiction, of the aforesaid statement made by me.

I, therefore, say that the facts in connection with this matter are as follows:—

I was a candidate for election as the representative in the Dominion House of Commons of the east riding of the county of Simcoe in the year 1896, and in that contest was supported by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other members of the cabinet as the candidate of the Liberal party. Failing of election for the east riding of Simcoe, I made application to be appointed to a position in the Senate of Canada, then vacant. In connection with this application I had interviews with members of the cabinet and others, and wrote and received letters from them, the originals or copies of which I have kept.

After these negotiations had proceeded for a considerable length of time I received a telegram from Ottawa, from one of the leading Reform members known to possess the confidence of the Laurier government, requesting me to meet him at the Union station in Toronto. I did meet him as requested, and he then showed me a letter which had been written to him by one of the members of the cabinet (for the purpose, as he said, of being shown to me), in which he was authorized to inform me that I could have the position I had applied for, provided I would 'do something.' I thereupon asked him what

this expression was intended to mean, and what was the 'something' I was asked or expected to 'do.'

He then informed me that I would be required or expected to pay a sum of ten thousand dollars.

I told him very emphatically that I would not pay that or any other sum. He thereupon said that he would not accept my answer as final, but would see me again after I should have had time to give the matter further consideration.

Later I again met him in Toronto, when he again told me that he was authorized to say positively that if I would pay the sum he had formerly named, that is, ten thousand dollars, I would be appointed a senator. I again refused to pay any sum of money.

I further say that I have in my possession a large number of letters written by members of the government and persons acting on behalf of one or more of such members, and copies of some letters, the originals of which I was requested to return after perusal, and did return; also copies of letters written by me in reply to letters so received, and that these letters and copies of letters bear corroborative evidence in support of the statement above made by me.

And I further say and promise that should an investigation be made by a competent and impartial non-partisan commission into the whole matter of the sale or attempted sale of senatorships, as it has been recently intimated by the Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell may be made, I will appear before such commission and give evidence, and produce the correspondence and copies of correspondence which I have in my possession, and will also furnish the names of witnesses who can corroborate my statements.

Dominion of Canada,

Province of Ontario,

County of York.

I, Herman Henry Cook, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, lumber merchant,

do solemnly declare that all the foregoing statements are true in substance and in fact.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of 'The Canada Evidence Act, 1893.'

H. H. COOK.

Declared before me at the city of Toronto, in the county of York, this 30th day of October, A.D. 1900.

H. Gordon,

Notary Public, Ontario.

Seal.

From the Toronto Globe of October 31, 1900.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reply to the statement of Mr. Cook.

Montreal, Oct. 31.—In answer to Mr. H. H. Cook's last statement, I reiterate my denial, already published, I never authorized anybody, either directly or indirectly to interview Mr. Cook on behalf of the government. Nobody had my authority, either written or verbal from me to approach him, and I characterize the whole accusation as a foul slander.

WILFRID LAURIER.'