

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

FRIDAY, 7th August, 1891.

The Committee met at 10 a.m. ; Honourable Mr. VIDAL in the Chair.

Mr. BARWICK, of Counsel for opposants.—I only desire to ask one thing, Mr. Chairman, that I be permitted to conduct this case as I deem proper. I have my list of witnesses here and my statement, and I beg to proceed in my own way and to call the witnesses in the order I desire. The first piece of evidence that I put in is a memorandum written by Mr. Lonergan to the Government and dated 11th June, 1891. It is in Mr. Lonergan's handwriting and shows the position of this railway and the applicability in June of this year of the \$280,000 of which I have spoken.

Hon. Mr. POWER.—Is that statement in Mr. Lonergan's handwriting ?

Mr. BARWICK.—I believe so. It is in your handwriting, is it not, Mr. Lonergan ?

Mr. LONERGAN.—Let the investigation proceed in legal form.

Hon. Mr. MILLER.—This investigation does not proceed on strictly legal lines.

Mr. LONERGAN.—It is in my handwriting.

Mr. BARWICK.—This document, which as Mr. Lonergan admits is in his handwriting, shows the financial position of the road, and the ability of the company to build the road in June of this year. The concluding paragraph of this memorandum which I would put in as Exhibit 1, is as follows :—

“Quebec Subsidy Act of last session devotes 800,000 acres to payment of its labour claims, etc. This has been converted at 35 cents, equalling \$280,000. At present all claims in these counties for labour and all privileged debts of Estate MacFarlane are being paid out of this. When judgment in suit of MacFarlane is rendered it will be paid out of this also, and should there be a balance it will be accounted for to us at completion of 100 miles.”

I would call as my first witness, Charles N. Armstrong.

Hon. Mr. MILLER.—Has he been summoned ?

Mr. BARWICK.—He has ; the Clerk has a copy, and the messenger is here to prove the service.

Copy of the summons was then read. (Exhibit No. 2.)

Hon. Mr. POWER.—I wish to call attention to the fact, that the summons is informal. It calls upon Mr. Armstrong to come and testify with reference to the “said Bill,” but no particular Bill is mentioned. Of course inasmuch as the Committee does not go by the legal rules, perhaps that does not matter.

Hon. Mr. MILLER.—It is for the Committee to say whether they have sufficient ground to resort to compulsory process to bring Mr. Armstrong here.

PETER DUNN called and sworn.

By Mr. Barwick :

Q. I understand that you are Chief Messenger in the Senate ?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you deliver a summons, of which this is a copy, to Mr. C. N. Armstrong yesterday ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where ?—A. In Sir Hector Langevin's house.

Q. At what time ?—A. Between one and two o'clock.

Q. Did you explain what it was to him ?—A. I read it to him.

Q. What did he say ?—A. He said : “You are very smart in serving me.”

Mr. BARWICK.—I beg that Mr. Armstrong be called in due form.

The Chairman called Charles N. Armstrong, but the person called did not respond