

explain when he would see me that he decided to send away Mr. Holland, the reporter. In the first place, I may say, some time before that I asked the commissioner to recall a certain witness that I thought would give important evidence, that is Mr. Page, the Chief Engineer of Canals. I had Mr. Page's letter to me to say that he was not sent for, and it annoyed me to think that the commissioner had not sent for such an important witness. Here is Mr. Page's letter to me :—

"CHIEF ENGINEER OF CANALS,
"OTTAWA, 5th November, 1889.

"The Hon. L. McCallum, Stromness, Ont. :

"DEAR MR. MCCALLUM,—On my return here this morning I received yours of the 4th instant, in which you mention having learned from the commissioner that I would be at St. Catharines next week to give evidence in the 'Ellis investigation.'

"I have not heard otherwise anything on the subject; no one has asked me. The commissioner has not written or said anything about requiring me, and it is not likely that I will be up at the time mentioned as a matter of choice.

"I suppose the inquiry is drawing pretty near to a close, and it is quite likely you will be glad, as it must have been a heavy tax on your time and patience.

"Yours very truly,
"JOHN PAGE."

I will now read a letter which I received from the commissioner:—

"MADOC, 11th November, 1889.

"Hon. L. McCallum, Senator :

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have not heard from Mr. Page yet. It may be he is away from Ottawa.

"I have decided, for reasons that I will explain when I see you, not to have the argument reported. Of course, I will hear it and take notes for my own assistance. I would suggest that you have a list of points made out that are embraced in your argument, to hand me when you are through.

"We will commence at 11 a.m. Wednesday to hear argument.

"I am, yours truly,
"A. F. WOOD."

• Here is the letter which the commissioner wrote to me after I left the room on the last day of the investigation :—

"CUSTOM HOUSE,
"ST. CATHARINES, 13th Nov., 1889.

"Hon. L. McCallum, Senator :

"DEAR SIR,—I have adjourned the proceedings until two o'clock p.m. Taking into consideration your strong feeling as to what you consider important to you, I have decided to employ Mr. Johnson, who is here to take down the evidence and report the same in type-writing for you and Mr. Ellis' benefit.

"I shall be glad to have you present at the hour named, and I shall be glad to hear your argument.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"A. F. WOOD,
"Commissioner."

The following is my reply :—

"WELLAND HOUSE,
"ST. CATHARINES, 13th Nov., 1889.

"A. F. Wood, Esq., Commissioner, etc. :

"DEAR SIR,—Yours is at hand; contents noted. In reply would say that after the strong felling that you exhibited this morning toward me, and I consider without cause, I spoke to you in the kindest manner and in order to avoid such feeling.

"It will be best for me not to appear before you any longer. The evidence is in; we can all see it.

"I am, yours truly,
"L. MCCALLUM."

I will now read the next letter that I received from the commissioner:—

"ST. CATHARINES, 14th Nov., 1889.

"Hon. L. McCallum :

"MY DEAR SIR,—I regret you did not give me the benefit of your argument yesterday.

"The following were my reasons for deciding to have the arguments reported—

"1st—I understood the arguments would be for my benefit.

"2nd—You stated different times to me that your argument would be 'very short.'

"3rd—On Friday last, after evidence closed, Mr. Holland gave a memo. of his account up to that time as about \$1,700, and said it would be about \$100 more to complete it if Mr. Rykert took all the time he claimed to state his case.

"4th—Intimations had reached me from Ottawa that the investigation was being very much prolonged.

"5th—I had used my best efforts to shorten it, but had no succeeded very much.

"6th—On reflection, at Toronto, I decided to take the points myself—as I suppose it was intended for me—and not add to the reporter's bill, and at once wrote Mr. Holland, and on reaching home wrote to you and Mr. Rykert.

"I was more than surprised at the position you took that your 'argument was wanted for the public.'

"To meet this, though differing entirely from your view as to what an argument is wanted for, I decided to employ stenographer Johnson—who was there at the request of Mr. Ellis for his benefit—and at once secured his services and wrote you, and adjourned until 2 p.m.

"At 2 p.m. proceedings were commenced by having recorded a letter from Mr. Bradley, stating there were 'no contracts for the pontoons, but they were built by agreement'; also a letter from Mr. Page, reiterating his statement that Mr. Ellis had been instructed to look after the Port Colborne gates—and enclosing a copy of such instructions. The date of Smith receipt was corrected from 2nd to 26th. You not being present, Mr. Rykert proceeded with his argument.

"If you will send me a copy of your argument and the points to which you wish to direct attention I will have them incorporated with the proceedings, and give due consideration to your points. In order to do this it must reach me by Tuesday night next—as the type-writer will not close until after that time.

"Conscious of having endeavored to discharge my duty without favor to any,

"I remain, yours truly,
"A. F. WOOD,
"Commissioner."

I replied as follows :—

STROMNESS, 18th November, 1889.

"A. F. Wood, Esq., M.P.P., Commissioner :

"DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 14th I find here to-day on my arrival home after an absence of three days.