

they could give even-handed justice with regard to the award of this contract; while yet an unfavourable answer might have crushed the hopes of the contractor, he said, "Don't you intend to help us in the elections?" (*Loud cheers.*)

Now, Sir, we have heard of Sir Hugh Allan's great influence, what a powerful man he was. How did he conjecture what was wanted? Did he say "Oh, yes, I will do everything I can for you. It is true. I have been exciting the country against you, but I will soothe all that down." Was that what he said? No, Sir, not that but something more. It was—"How much?" (*Laughter and great cheers.*) It appears from the evidence of Mr. Abbott—which, under the circumstances, I am disposed to accept, without withdrawing the compliments I have paid to Sir Hugh Allan—as the more creditable, that no sum was named; in fact, I suppose it was just to be as much as was necessary to corrupt the country sufficiently to enable the Government to fulfil their bargain.

According to Mr. Abbott's evidence all that was said about the sum was that it was to be put in writing, and Sir George said if Mr. Abbott threw out the paper it would be signed. Then those two gentlemen go up to their den of iniquity. (*Cheers.*) There both the letters are drafted, and having drafted them they return to Sir George-É. Cartier together. These letters are both presented at the same time to Sir George-É. Cartier. He reads them over, he makes some objection to the last page of the long letter. He changes the draft of the long one. Mr. Abbott writes it out for him and this, too, is signed. Both signed at the same time, and the bargain is struck, so far as those two gentlemen can strike it; and yet men of common sense are heard to say that this was not one transaction—that there was one bargain for the Pacific Railway, and that the political subscription was another thing altogether. (*Cheers.*) Sir, I shall not insult the intelligence of this House by arguing upon this point. (*Cheers.*) Every man ought to put it to himself to consider it with reference to his own private business relations. Every man ought to put himself—if a man should be asked so far to degrade himself—in Sir Hugh Allan's place, and fancy what he must have thought—whether he would not have thought that they formed part of one bargain. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*)

I will not waste time upon meeting the technicalities which I have heard raised upon this point, but I will simply point out that the law would regard these two matters as portions of one transaction. There would be no controversy in the courts that it was a bargain, and a bargain by which the assurances were given on the one hand and the money was to be given on the other. (*Loud cheering.*) Supposing that there had been no letter, would that have prevented the bargain from being carried out? Will hon. gentlemen argue that a contract unwritten was not a contract? Sir, it would be perfectly preposterous. (*Cheers.*)

The hon. gentleman, however, alleges that he repudiated that contract, and that the letter of the 30th of July was withdrawn. I deny it, Sir, and I undertake to prove, to the satisfaction of every man whose mind is not closed to argument, that it is utterly untrue. (*Cheers.*)

Before I pass to the telegrams which passed upon this subject, let me call your serious attention to the fact that we have but the oral statements of gentlemen as to the terms of the telegram of Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, which gave rise to these two telegrams which I am about to refer to; and, Sir, I maintain that no proper exertions were made, no proper questions were asked, in order to elicit the truth as to that telegram. I maintain that, if it was of importance to this enquiry at all—and I do not think it was—they ought to have gone much further than they did. (*Hear, hear.*) Who can doubt that Sir Hugh Allan had a copy of that telegram? He speaks of it in his evidence, he refers to it but he never was asked for it. (*Hear, hear.*) Who can doubt that Mr. Abbott knew about it; who can doubt that it was among Sir George-É. Cartier's private papers and although the custodian of these papers was well known, he is never called upon nor brought forward; and all that we know about that telegram from the evidence is what the witnesses supposed it to have been, without a single endeavour to have it proved.

But if we have not the telegram we have the answer. Let us, Sir, take that answer of Sir Hugh Allan's. "I have seen Sir George-É. Cartier today; you may return my letter or regard it as waste paper. It was not intended as anything official." But, Sir, the letter referred to in this despatch is the letter of Sir Hugh Allan to Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, not the letter of Sir George-É. Cartier. (*Cheers.*) But what does Sir Hugh say further in his telegram to Sir John:—"Your telegram to Sir George-É. Cartier is the basis of the agreement, which I have no doubt you will approve of." (*Cheers.*) Why, this forms an agreement. What agreement? What agreement, Sir, but the letter of the 30th July. (*Loud cheers.*) But why this form? What was its purpose? Sir, for a purpose we well understand; for the purpose of being able to say that the First Minister had never sanctioned any such agreement. (*Loud cheers.*) Sir Hugh Allan withdraws his own letter, and says it was not intended as anything official, but he sticks to the agreement, and says—"Your telegram is the basis of our agreement." Let me turn to the telegram of Sir George-É. Cartier to Hon. Sir John Macdonald of the 31st of July, and see what it says:—"Have seen Sir Hugh. He withdraws his letter written you since you make objection to it, and relies for the basis of arrangement on your telegram to me, of which I gave him a copy." Does this telegram say that the letter to Sir George Cartier was withdrawn? Sir, there was nothing withdrawn, and the First Minister knew it. (*Loud cheers.*) Sir, he knew it, because it was not proposed to be withdrawn. On the other hand, he knew that the agreement was confirmed, for Sir Hugh Allan expressly said in his despatch, "Your telegram to Sir George is the basis of our agreement." (*Cheers.*)

Let me now turn to the letters of Sir Hugh Allan on the 6th and 7th of August, on pages 207 and 208 of the evidence, in which, with various other details, he states that an agreement was entered into yesterday. Sir, that letter is true, if that agreement with Sir George-É. Cartier had not been withdrawn; but it is false, utterly false, if the letter had been withdrawn. (*Cheers.*) Therefore the written evidence of Sir Hugh at the time corroborates the proposition that the letter of Sir George-É. Cartier was not withdrawn. (*Cheers.*) But, Sir, I have more evidence yet. On the 9th of August Sir Hugh Allan attended a