

*Question*—Was that the document of the 12th of October, signed by Sir Hugh Allan, yourself, and Mr Beaubien ?

*Answer*—Yes ; but I cannot remember the date. We were the Provisional Committee. An answer was sent to that, which, I think, is also printed. On seeing that answer we thought that the attempt to amalgamate would prove unsuccessful, and I do not think the Canada Company took any further steps to bring about an amalgamation ; but we were informed that the Government had taken up the matter, and were making an effort, and of Sir John A. Macdonald's visit to Toronto to see Mr. Macpherson ; and the probability at first of his succeeding, and afterwards of his failure. These efforts were commenced before the elections, suspended to some extent during the elections, and re-commenced towards the end of September and carried on until the end of November, with every desire, I think, on the part of the Canada Company to have them successful. After this, I think, either at the end of November or the beginning of December, late in the autumn, at all events, Sir Hugh Allan was informed, and I myself I think verbally, also, that the Government intended to form a Company under the power given them by their Act ; that they did not think that it would be proper to give the contract to either company incorporated ; that these companies were to a very considerable extent sectional, and the company which should get the contract must be one that would fairly represent the whole Dominion. The Government then stated that they were endeavoring to get together a company composed of such men as would fairly represent the whole Dominion, and would command confidence here and in England, where it was supposed the funds were to be obtained for building the road. Shortly after this a few of the gentlemen, whom the Government had been consulting about the company, met in Ottawa, and perhaps every week or so they met again, their numbers being increased each time by persons who were thought fit to come, and who were encouraged to come in. I think that in January the number had been pretty nearly filled up, and the framing of the charter was proceeded with. At the meetings here I had always taken an active part, and given a good deal of attention to the whole subject, and I came gradually to be put forward without any formal appointment to represent those gentlemen in settling the details of the charter ; and the Government corresponded with me on several occasions in that sense, and caused me to visit Ottawa to meet members of the Government for the purpose of working up the charter. And in that way during the month of January, and I think up to the 5th of February, the clauses of the charter were discussed and the charter framed after a very great deal of discussion and attention on both sides. It was framed as it now is, and was issued about the 5th of February of this year, in the form which it now assumes.

*Question*—What number of interviews had you with the Government ?

*Answer*—We had several interviews with the whole Cabinet, but the details of the Charter were settled chiefly with Sir John A. Macdonald and the Hon. Mr. Campbell.

I don't know whether any narrative I could give you, could proceed further than that I have given ; but any further questions which the Commission may choose to put me I will be happy to answer.

*Question*—Did you know of the correspondence between Sir Hugh Allan and Mr. McMullen and Mr. Smith, while it was going on ?

*Answer*—Nothing whatever. I had no idea of it at all.

*Question*—Have you any personal knowledge about these telegrams of the 30th and 31st of July, to Sir George Cartier, respecting that letter of the 30th of July, embodying the new terms of agreement ?

*Answer*—No. I had no knowledge of them until very recently. I was under the impression, until some time ago, that Sir John A. Macdonald concurred in Sir George Cartier's letter, but I cannot at this moment remember what caused that impression. It was without any foundation whatever, I am satisfied now.

*Question*—Were you present at any of the meetings between Sir Hugh Allan and Mr. McMullen, except the one you have mentioned ?

*Answer*—I had an informal meeting on one occasion early in the Session, when I