

men 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.

Q.—What number of interviews had you with the Government?

A.—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.

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

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

Q.—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?

A.—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.

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

A.—I had an informal meeting on one occasion early in the Session, when I informed them—Sir Hugh Allan and Mr. McMullen—that unless the American project was laid aside, it would be useless to attempt to carry out their enterprise. I met them both frequently afterwards.

Q.—You have seen Mr. McMullen's published letter of July?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you remember the statements made with respect to the payments of, or promises of, sums of money?

A.—I don't remember sufficiently well what promise you refer to.

Q.—The first is, that Sir Hugh Allan announced to Mr. Smith and Mr. McMullen that \$8,500 had been lent to Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Francis Hincks?

A.—I know nothing whatever of that.

Q.—It also speaks of \$50,000 which Sir Hugh Allan said it was necessary to pay to Sir Francis Hincks?

A.—I never heard of that except in the newspapers.

Q.—Did you ever hear Sir Hugh Allan mention either of these sums, or that they were expected by the parties to whom they were given?

A.—No, never.

Q.—Then the letter says: "In addition to the payments spoken of, Mr. Abbott was authorized to promise Mr. Langevin \$25,000 to aid in the elections about Quebec, on condition of his friendly assistance, and Mr. Abbott reported that he had done so?"

A.—As regards that I think it is necessary to make a statement. In the first place, the statement in that form is entirely untrue, but it is quite true that I had a conversation early in the Session with Mr. Langevin about the expenses incurred in the elections at Quebec. Mr. Langevin mentioned to me that at the previous general elections he had been obliged to expend a very considerable sum of money, not very large in itself, but large comparatively, and he said he did not think it fair that the burden of those elections should rest entirely on him. He said he thought he ought to have a share of any funds subscribed in Montreal for election purposes to assist in Quebec, which he had not had in previous elections, and that they could not expect much of a subscription from Quebec to help the Government. I agreed with him in thinking that it was unfair that he should bear the burden of the Quebec elections, and I told him that in so far as I