

Then, five days afterwards, Sir John A. Macdonald telegraphed for another \$10,000.

MR. BOWELL: Read the letter as to the distribution of the stock.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: I do not well understand what the hon. gentleman wants. He can read the passage he refers to himself. I repeat that it gives me no pleasure to read those letters; but I appeal to the sense of propriety of hon. members on both sides to decide whether upon all occasions, after a lapse of seven years, the hon. member for Cumberland, should refer to this particular transaction and denounce those who condemned it. Whenever he attacks me and hon. members on this side in this fashion, I will use this evidence and quote those letters against him. The hon. gentleman has told us that the whole five years of the late Administration presented only one green spot, the Fishery Award. He said that for the Fisheries Commissioner we had to select a gentleman not within our own ranks, but on the opposite side of politics, who was a personal friend of Sir John A. Macdonald. I am not prepared to say whether Sir A. T. Galt was, then, a personal friend of the present Premier. I know that during the last two years he was in Parliament, he opposed Sir John A. Macdonald and his Government. They were many years associated together, and may have been personal friends. Why should we not have appointed Sir A. T. Galt, even if he was a friend of the First Minister. Let me explain the circumstances connected with the Halifax Commission. When the duty fell on the late Government of attending to it, we cast about to see whom we should select, preliminarily. We decided not to appoint one of ourselves—we thought it would be inexpedient to appoint a member of the Government. The name of Sir Alexander Galt was suggested, and no man in this Chamber more cheerfully bears testimony to his high character and fitness for the work than myself. It affords me the greatest pleasure to speak in the highest terms of his great ability, great fidelity and loyalty to his country. We felt that such a man, who had filled the position of Finance Minister for many years, who was well-known in this country and in England, possessed peculiar qualifications for that position. We

did not consider the question of his politics, or ask whether he was a friend of Sir John A. Macdonald or not; this was of no consequence. Sir Alexander Galt was accordingly appointed, and when the Commission met at Halifax, he acted with becoming dignity, great decorum and impartiality. He had associated with him two gentlemen of high character, and considerable ability. The United States were represented by Judge Foster, a man of high character and remarkable ability, and with him an able lawyer on that country, Mr. Dana, well-known in the domains of jurisprudence and literature; and also with Mr. Trescott, from Washington. We attended at Halifax, prepared our case, called our witnesses, and occupied several months in the enquiry. I had much to do in the initial stages of and in the preparation of the case. I gave my whole undivided time and attention to the work, for months, without receiving a cent of compensation therefor. I was assisted by Mr. Whitcher, and two other gentlemen from the Departments, who rendered valuable service. In the professional duties connected with the enquiry, I was assisted by able lawyers. I had also associated with me Mr. Ford, the agent of the British Government. But I had the sole responsibility of attending to this business on behalf of this Government. I was not aided by the advice of my colleagues, as they were so far away from the place of the enquiry. I endeavoured faithfully to discharge my duty throughout, and I think I understood the case. The hon. member for Cumberland, who is not willing to give a political opponent credit for anything, and who was in Halifax at the time of the enquiry, I believe he did not attend it, and knew nothing of the case or how it was conducted. But after his election, he denounced me, though we had been on friendly terms personally, so far as I know, for thirty years. At least I never had any personal altercation with him, and we have been the representatives of adjoining counties for many years, his in Nova Scotia and mine in New Brunswick. I conducted my election honourably, and never indulged in expressions derogatory to him, nor in personalities of any kind. Well, on the day of the declaration in his own county, the hon. the Minister of Railways made a

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH.