

**Mr. BLAIN:** If the right hon. gentleman refers to me, I say there is not a particle of truth in the statement. Not one single solitary cent came out of my pocket unfairly. (*Cheers and laughter.*)

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** Perhaps the gentleman has not a pocket. Perhaps his wife has. (*Laughter, and cries of "Shame" from the Opposition.*)

**Mr. BLAIN** rose. (*Cries of "Order".*) He said the right hon. gentleman had made a charge against him. He would answer it at another time.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** Before the Committee which I propose to move, and which will have power to administer an oath, and which the member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) has invited, I shall be able to prove the fact I stated. The hon. gentleman will perhaps reserve himself for that. (*Interruption.*)

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON:** I raise the question of order. I doubt whether the right hon. gentleman is in order in making statements affecting the right of hon. gentlemen to sit in this House without formulating charges to be followed by a motion. The hon. gentleman intimates his intention of making a motion at a future time, but he cannot move a motion of the kind indicated in a debate on the Address. To charge members with having obtained their seats by improper means is therefore a violation of the proprieties of debate, and I believe of other standing orders of the House.

**Hon. Mr. BLAKE:** In the case of the member for York West (Mr. Blain) the proceeding is doubly irregular, for it is interfering with an actual petition pending before an election Committee.

**The SPEAKER:** The question before the House really does not properly relate to these subjects. (*Hear, hear.*) I have not hitherto interfered in any way with this debate. There has been a good deal of language used which is not strictly Parliamentary, and reference made that might better have been avoided, but the subject of the debate is of such a character that I thought I ought not to interfere with free discussion. I have not used any influence to stay the parties who have been marking this charge against the Ministry, and I should have still pursued the same course unless applied to by the other side; but I must say I think it would be better if the Minister of Justice (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) would refrain from making direct charges against individual members. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** I submit to your decision, Sir, I would not have alluded to the hon. member if it had not been for the offensive way in which he interrupted me, and my knowledge about his case. The hon. gentlemen opposite will find out that I know a great deal more about their elections than they would care that I should know.

I shall now proceed with the history I am giving to the House as well as I can under these unseemly interruptions. Sir, there never was an occasion, there never was a minute, in which the interests of Canada were sacrificed by the Government of Canada for election purposes. (*Loud cheers.*) I say that we carry out the law as well as

the law could possibly be carried out. (*Cheers.*) I say that up to the very last moment we tried to obtain an amalgamation of the two Companies. I almost went on my knees, which is not my habit, I am sorry to say, to my friends in Toronto, for the purpose of securing an amalgamation, and though I did not secure an amalgamation of the two Companies, yet I got an amalgamation of the two interests, and secured the best men in Western Canada.

I have no hesitation in saying that in the Company chartered by the Government, we have the very best men in Canada, considering all the circumstances. Let us go over the whole Board from Upper Canada. There is Mr. Donald McInnes, of Hamilton, I will ask the hon. member for Welland (Mr. Thomson) if he is not a merchant of standing and respectability, and one of the last men to sell the interests of the Dominion to the Yankees. I asked the Hon. Mr. Carling to come on the Board, but when the House came to the conclusion to exclude members of Parliament from that Board, I obtained Major Walker, representing one of the leading industries in the West. Then there is Col. Cumberland, and can we suppose that Col. Cumberland, who is at the heat of the great railway interests, and is charged with the management of millions of dollars, would sell himself to Sir Hugh Allan or the Yankees. (*Cheers.*)

I ask if Mr. Fleming, the engineer, the man whose name will live on the continent for his great engineering exploits, and who was objected to with Col. Cumberland and Major Walker by Sir Hugh Allan. Then the last man I asked was Mr. Walter Shanly. To some of you Walter Shanly may be unknown, but in the old Provinces of Canada he is everywhere known as being most highly respected, and as an engineer, the man who formerly managed the Grand Trunk, the man who achieved the great triumph of constructing the Hoosac Tunnel. I asked him as a personal friend of mine, as an old Ontarian, as one who was representing a wealthy constituency, to come on that board, and much against his will he came.

In the same way let us look at the Lower Province members. We look at Mr. E.R. Burpee. That is a truly honoured name, I am told, in New Brunswick. Do you think that E.R. Burpee is going to sell to the Yankees, Jay Cooke & Co., or to the member for Shefford. (*Laughter and cheers.*) Then we come to Lieutenant-Governor Archibald, of Nova Scotia, and is he likely to sell us to the Yankees, the member for Shefford (Hon. Mr. Huntington), or Jay Cooke & Co. I appeal to all the members for British Columbia, some of whom were opposed to him in politics, whether the name of Dr. Helmcken did not inspire respect. (*Cheers.*) With respect to Manitoba, I will only ask you to say whether Mr. McDermott, the richest and oldest merchant in Manitoba, a man who was the last who would sell the interest of this great Dominion to the Yankees, whether that man would sell Canada. If ever any Government succeeded in accomplishing any particular object, surely this Government tried, and succeeded, to prevent foreigners from obtaining influence in or control over our transcontinental railway. (*Cheers.*)

By their line of action, the gentlemen opposite have postponed for some years the building of that railway, and they have