The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26.

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SIR JOHN MACDONALD IN THE WITNESS BOX.

WE wish to call special attention to the evidence of Sir JOHN MACDONALD. He is the chief person amongst the accused. He is also necessarily the principal witness of Mr. HUNTINGDON. No body can know more than he does. If he tells the truth we have everything that can be forthcoming of a trustworthy character. With the close of his evidence, all interest in this Pacific Railway business, so far as it has been made the cover under which to hang scandalous rhetoric, ceases. We would now call attention, therefore, to the character of that evidence, and for the present direct the public mind specially to Sir JOHN MACDONALD's statement of Wednesday as a verbatim report of which appeared in our issue of yesterday.

The first thing that must strike every impartial mind in reading these columns of easy, candid, confident narration is the ring of truth that pervades every sentence. The witness speaks like a man who has nothing to conceal, who has done nothing which it would pain him the whole Dominion should know. He begins at the beginning; the admission of British Columbia to the Dominion in 1871, and the provision that a railway should span the Continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific as Canadian territory. Passing from the resolution of the House of Commons that such a road should be constructed, we find Mr. WALPOLE calling on the Prime Minister to tell him that certain American capitalists from Chicago were coming to Ottawa to make proposals for the construction of the line. He told Mr. WADDINGTON that he considered the proposals preferable, and that the Government could entertain no proposal until after they had submitted their scheme to Parliament and obtained the sanction of the Legislature. As a matter of courtesy the Premier consented to see these gentlemen, two of whom were Messrs. SMITH and MCMULLEN, of Chicago. Now the reader will note that the moment the building of the Pacific Railway was mooted, uninvited, obtrusive SMITH and MCMULLEN came to try and get the matter into their hands, and were courteously repulsed. From that moment Sir JOHN MACDONALD swears that his attention and that of his colleagues was directed to obtaining the co-operation of Canadian capitalists. Hence all these tours. Hence intrigue in the first place, and then mendacious slander, prompted by apparent revenge. At that time it had not occurred to Sir JOHN that these gentlemen were connected with the Pacific Railway. Perhaps if it had his repulse would not have been so courteous. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS, acting on his own responsibility and without authority, had met these men at Detroit