

A.—I think it was. I think it was within a day or two after that deputation was up here.

Q.—You were with a deputation that waited on the Government at Ottawa?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your recollection of what occurred on that occasion. What gentlemen were with you representing the interests you were desirous to promote?

A.—Mr. Smith, Mr. McMullen, and myself, I think, were the only ones to represent that interest. There was, perhaps, another, but I think there were only three. I think the members of the Government numbered altogether nine or ten, and the discussion was participated in by Sir Francis Hincks and the deputation. Sir George Cartier never spoke during the whole time. Very few of the other members spoke at all. No opinion was expressed by the Government on the subject.

Q.—Do you remember what was said?

A.—I remember that I explained to them the route by which it was proposed to take the railway, the advantages it would give to the Provinces, the means by which it could be built, and the results that would probably arise from it. I don't think anything was said by any member of the Government except merely asking explanations on points which they did not quite understand.

Q.—Was that the interview at which you were asked to make some proposal?

A.—It was.

Q.—What did you say?

A.—I said "Are you prepared to accept a proposal if I make one?" Sir John replied, "We are not prepared to accept any proposition;" then I said "I am not prepared to make one."

Q.—Returning to the money question once more, I understand you to say that you had no hope or expectation of receiving that money back again?

A.—Not the slightest.

Q.—You say you got this paper as a sort of business matter. Did you make any entry in your books as to the disbursement of that large sum of money?

A.—In my own private books.

Q.—What was the form of the entry?

A.—I don't keep it in regular style and make entries in it.

Q.—Is there any entry made which would indicate any source from which you expected to have those large sums repaid to you?

A.—A considerable portion of the money was expended in the Northern Colonization Road. I do expect to get back some portion of that money because it was legitimately expended for railway purposes. There was a large amount of money expended on the Pacific Railway, I having paid all the preliminary expenses connected with it. I do not expect to get that back. In all probability I will not. There was a large sum expended on the Ottawa and Toronto Railway. I think when that comes to be organized I will get that back. I have paid for surveys, and paid the commissioners for getting bonuses from the municipalities, altogether quite a large sum of money, and I expect to get that back. The portion of money paid to assist in the elections directly I don't expect to be repaid.

Q.—That is the money you disbursed to Sir George Cartier, Mr. Langevin, and Sir John?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And the subsequent moneys, paid through Mr. Abbott?

A.—Yes, amounting in all to \$162,000.

Q.—Did you make any entry in your books about those particular sums. Did you separate them?

A.—No, I don't think I did. I imagine that my books contain merely a memorandum of the payments.

Q.—And you have no claim in any way for their repayment?

A.—No, not in the slightest.

To Sir John A. Macdonald, through the Chairman:

Q.—As I understand it, then, the agreement between you and the Government, or any member of the Government, may be considered to be confined to my telegram of the 26th July?

A.—I think so.

Q.—At the time that that telegram was sent to Sir George, on the 26th July, there had been no conversation with him or anyone about helping to contribute to the elections.

A.—No, not at all; it was after that.

Q.—It was after that, so that as far as that agreement was concerned there was no connection between your subscription to the elections and that telegram?